United Nations A/ES-10/791–S/2018/710

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
18 July 2018

Original: English

**General Assembly**
**Tenth emergency special session**
Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Seventy-third year**

## Identical letters dated 17 July 2018 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to write to you once again to draw your attention to the ongoing critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and more specifically, to the grave reality faced by Palestinian civilians as a direct result of the Israeli military occupation.

Israeli occupying forces carried out air strikes across the Gaza Strip on 13 July and continued them overnight, culminating on 14 July in Israel's largest daytime air strike campaign in the besieged enclave since its 2014 aggression on the territory that killed more than 2,200 Palestinians.

Two Palestinian children, Amir al-Nimra, age 15, and Louay Kaheil, age 16, were killed by an Israeli missile as they were playing on the roof of the Katiba building, a large, unoccupied and unfinished concrete structure in the heart of Gaza City located next to a park often visited by Palestinian families during the summertime. Amir and Louay were best friends, described as "like twin brothers", who grew up on the same street in central Gaza. Louay was killed by a hit to the head and back and Amir died as a result of shrapnel puncturing his entire body.

Heavy shelling by Israeli warplanes in various areas in Gaza also resulted in injuries to at least 25 other Palestinians and damage to ambulances and civilian structures, including a mosque and an arts and crafts centre. Bombs caused loud explosions in civilian areas, clearly intended to further terrorize the civilian population.

Such a brutal and criminal campaign against the population of Gaza and Israel's deliberate targeting and killing of Palestinian children are nothing new, following instead a pattern of wilful killings of Palestinian civilians, including children, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with total impunity.

Indeed, the cold-blooded killings of Amir and Louay are a tragic reminder of the murder by Israeli air strikes four years ago yesterday, on 16 July 2014, of nine



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children, including four brothers and cousins of the Baker family, as they were playing on the beach in Gaza City.

Israel's ongoing wilful killing of Palestinian civilians and its cruel and callous disregard for human life were also demonstrated during the "Great Return March" protests in Gaza on 13 July, as the occupying Power continued its vicious slaughter of defenceless peaceful protesters, fatally wounding two Palestinians, Othman Rami Hillis, age 15, and Muhammad Nasir Shurab, age 20, and injuring more than 100, including 65 by live ammunition. This brings the total number of Palestinians killed since 30 March to nearly 150, including 22 children, and the total number of injured to approximately 15,300.

Here we recall that Palestinian civilians in Gaza are protesting against the unbearable conditions that the Palestinian people have been facing for the past 70 years, including 70 years of dispossession, a 51-year occupation and a more than 11-year illegal and inhumane blockade.

As Palestinians in Gaza maintain their protest against this brutal blockade, Israel's morally depraved response has been to tighten the blockade and exacerbate the collective punishment of the Palestinian civilian population even further.

On 9 July, the Netanyahu Government decided to seal off the Kerem Shalom crossing, the only commercial crossing of goods in and out of Gaza, cutting off vital supplies and banning all exports from Gaza, putting thousands of jobs at risk, causing prices of essential materials to surge and compounding the devastating humanitarian situation already rampant in the Gaza Strip, where 49 per cent of Palestinians are unemployed. Of the goods that would normally enter Gaza, 55 per cent are now being denied entry under the new restrictions, including construction materials, furniture, wood, electronics, fabric, clothing, blankets and generators. Among the imports banned by Israel are truckloads of building materials for United Nations agencies designated for education, health and water, sanitation and hygiene projects.

According to Chris Gunness, a spokesperson for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), these Israeli restrictions "can be expected to have profound and far reaching consequences for already desperate civilians" and will lead to an increase in demand for UNRWA services. In this regard, we appeal to all States to continue their vital humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, especially during this period of crisis in which Gaza is heading towards complete economic and social collapse, and to increase their support to UNRWA, which, besides humanitarian aid, stands for hope and respect for rights and dignity, which is so crucial given the absence of a solution and the growing despair and uncertainty about the future.

Against this backdrop of criminal activity in Gaza, there is also a continuing trend of attacks and incitement by extremist and terrorist Israeli settlers in the West Bank. While it is nearly impossible to document every violation, the examples below provide just a glimpse of the types of violations that the Palestinian people are enduring daily as a result of settler violence.

On 10 July, in full view and under the protection of Israeli occupying forces, extremist Israeli settlers blocked an ambulance carrying a Palestinian patient in Al-Khalil (Hebron). On the same day, extremist Israeli settlers escorted by Israeli occupying forces stormed the Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem, the latest in a series of about 100 attacks carried out by settlers against the mosque in the past two months. So-called terrorist "price tag" attacks have also continued to terrorize the Palestinian civilian population, including the spraying of anti-Palestinian racist graffiti, the puncturing of car tyres, the uprooting of hundreds of olive trees and countless cases of harassment and assault against Palestinian civilians.

We reiterate our condemnation of these heinous crimes and continue to hold the Government of Israel responsible for the violence sustained by innocent civilians as well as the culture of hate and violence that it continues to foster through the imposition of its endless, illegal policies and practices, which include the transfer of illegal settlers to illegal settlements throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem.

We call again for immediate measures to hold accountable all settlers committing crimes against the Palestinian people. Impunity for Israeli settlers cannot continue to be the norm, and the international community must demand that Israel uphold its obligations to investigate all such crimes and hold the perpetrators accountable. Terrorism in all its forms must be unequivocally condemned and ceased.

Here, we recall with sorrow the heinous crime perpetrated three years ago in the same month of July against the Dawabsha family in Duma, when a group of terrorist Israeli settlers threw firebombs into the family's home, burning alive Ali, an 18-month-old baby, as he slept in his bed, and severely burning his mother and father, Reham and Sa'ad, who later died from their wounds. We highlight that the Israeli Government has systematically failed to redress the grievance and to hold the responsible Israeli terrorist settlers accountable for this attack, instead deciding this morning to release one of the terrorist settlers suspected of planning the terror attack.

Israel's systematic and deliberate campaign of brutalizing and terrorizing innocent Palestinians is part and parcel of its overall colonial strategy to achieve ethnic purity and prolong the occupation and its ongoing system of ethnic cleansing that ultimately seeks to superimpose all of "Greater Israel" on all of historic Palestine and eradicate any hopes of return for Palestine refugees.

While actions on the ground have revealed for decades Israel's colonial and discriminatory project, through its attempts to expel and replace the Palestinian population and Judaize space, on 16 July the Israeli Knesset deliberated on the final draft of so-called "legislation" that would define Israel as "the nation-state of the Jewish people", explicitly endorsing apartheid and colonialism by establishing ethnic discrimination and racist acts against Palestinians as a constitutional mandate and enshrining the ethnic supremacy of Jews over Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinian residents of Jerusalem. This so-called "law" would establish ideological beliefs as official policy and require discrimination against Palestinians in the fields of citizenship, property and land, language and culture, in explicit violation of peremptory norms of international law, international humanitarian law, the prohibition against colonialism and the most basic fundamental principles of human rights and democracy that staunchly oppose racism.

As long as the world remains silent, Israel's brutal colonial and ethnic cleansing campaign against innocent Palestinians will only continue. We urge all members of the international community, as well as all relevant organizations, to intervene immediately and to exhibit the moral and political courage necessary to put an end to Israel's unlawful and immoral behaviour, including the illegal occupation of Palestinian land and the suffocating blockade of Gaza, in blatant violation of the occupying Power's obligations under international law, and to put an end to Israel's long-standing impunity for international crimes.

We also reiterate our call for the protection of the Palestinian people, for ensuring the safety and well-being of a defenceless civilian population being held captive under a more than half-century occupation. Failure to provide protection for the Palestinian people will lead to further escalation and tragically result in more bloodshed.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 641 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 July 2018 (A/ES-10/790-S/2018/668), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations S/2018/711

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 July 2018

Original: English

# Letter dated 17 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should be grateful if you would kindly have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the Security Council and have it circulated to the members of the Council:

- Letter from Sidi M. Omar, Representative of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario) at the United Nations

(*Signed*) Neville **Gertze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-11888 (E) 190718

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## Annex to the letter dated 17 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to write to you to inform you that the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario), the legitimate representative of the people of Western Sahara, has taken note of the decision taken today by the Council of the European Union to sign an amendment to the European Union-Morocco Association Agreement, intended to apply to the Territory of Western Sahara.

By taking this decision, the European Union has chosen to turn its back on justice to protect short-term political and financial interests, and hence to contribute to the continuation of a situation of foreign occupation and to prolonging the suffering of the Sahrawi people by fuelling an international conflict that is threatening the stability and security in the region. Moreover, such move is in no way conducive to the peace process called for by the Security Council and would hinder the invaluable efforts of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Horst Köhler, aiming at relaunching the negotiating process between the Frente Polisario and Morocco with a view to reaching a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the conflict in full respect for the inalienable right to self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

The decision clearly flies in the face of the judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 2016 and 2018. In particular, the ruling handed down by the Court on 27 February 2018 establishes unequivocally that Western Sahara is not part of Morocco, and that agreements concluded between the European Union and Morocco cannot be applicable to the Territory of Western Sahara and to the waters adjacent thereto. The Court's judgment, which consolidates its ruling of 21 December 2016, leaves no doubt about the principles of international law applicable to Western Sahara as a Non-Self-Governing Territory and its natural resources. It makes it abundantly clear that all agreements concluded between Morocco and third parties would be in violation of basic principles of international law, including the right to self-determination, if they were to include Western Sahara and its territorial waters. If an agreement were to be applied to the Territory of Western Sahara, a separate act would then be required, based on the consent of the representative of the Sahrawi people.

Immediately following the court decisions, the Frente Polisario addressed the European political leaders to allow the conclusion of such an agreement. However, the European Commission, mandated by the Council, has refused any contact and limited itself to taking note of the gross manoeuvres employed by Morocco, the occupying Power of the Territory.

In view of the Council position and its attempt to force its decision through, the Frente Polisario has requested its lawyers to lodge a liability claim before the Court of Justice of the European Union for the damage caused to the Sahrawi people. In the face of the European Union's rejection of any dialogue, the Frente Polisario has further requested its lawyers to act with the utmost determination. The legal procedures will go on as long as the European Union leaders remain unwilling to apply the December 2016 ruling, which affirmed that the consent of the Frente Polisario regarding any agreement concerning the Territory of Western Sahara is paramount and cannot be overridden.

I should be most grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sidi M. **Omar**
Representative of the Frente Polisario at the United Nations

United Nations S/2018/712

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 July 2018
English
Original: Russian

**Letter dated 17 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit herewith comments by the Information and Press Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the fourth anniversary of the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) D. **Polyanskiy**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

18-11983 (E) 230718 230718

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## Annex to the letter dated 17 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

## Comments by the Information and Press Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the fourth anniversary of the crash of the Malaysia Airlines Boeing aircraft in eastern Ukraine

Four years have passed since the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in Donbas. The disaster claimed the lives of 298 innocent people, who were nationals of many States. We again express our condolences to the victims' families and loved ones.

The Russian Federation has, from the outset, consistently advocated a thorough and objective international investigation of the Malaysia Airlines Boeing plane disaster, and it spearheaded the adoption of Security Council resolution 2166 (2014). Our country immediately offered all necessary technical and expert assistance, including assistance based on its experience of investigating the crash of a Siberia Airlines plane shot down by Ukrainian air defence forces over the Black Sea in 2001.

The Netherlands did not, however, allow Russia to be part of the joint investigation team and chose to develop a pre-prepared version of events, while practically ignoring the entire time the crucial information that Russia contributed to the investigation both on a voluntary basis and within the framework of a legal assistance mechanism.

The bias and lack of transparency of the current investigation, the reliance on information from social networks and unverified open sources and the collaboration with pseudo investigators from Bellingcat who are known for their fake news, were causes for concern.

Ukraine, although obviously an interested party, remains a full member of the joint investigation team and effectively has the chance to influence the outcome of the investigation. A blind eye has been turned to Kiev's failure to provide important evidence, such as data from radar stations, information on the location and activity of Ukrainian defence forces and recordings of the conversations of Ukrainian flight controllers.

It is glaringly obvious that the Netherlands has practically absolved Kiev of blame for failing to close the airspace over the region of the military activities in the east of the country.

At the end of May 2018, the Netherlands and Australia did not wait for Russia's responses to requests for legal assistance on the MH17 case from the Dutch prosecution service in March, April and May 2018, and they made unfounded accusations against Russia of involvement in the crash of the Malaysia Airlines jet and demanded that Russia enter into negotiations to discuss the legal consequences of its alleged liability, including the payment of compensation to relatives of the victims of the air disaster. In so doing, these two member countries of the joint investigation team demonstrated their unwillingness to pursue full and constructive cooperation on the MH17 case, as well as their lack of interest in conducting a comprehensive, objective and independent international investigation.

In a statement to mark the fourth anniversary of the crash of flight MH17, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Julie Bishop, spoke about a proposal made

to Russia by the Netherlands and Australia to "open dialogue around the circumstances leading to the tragic loss of innocent lives". This is precisely the kind of cooperation that we have been calling for since 2014, but it has taken four years for our partners to realize the need for it. So much time has been lost.

Russia remains committed to Security Council resolution 2166 (2014) and is still prepared to cooperate with the investigation, so as to establish the truth and bring those responsible to justice.

United Nations S/2018/713

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 July 2018

Original: English

## Letter dated 19 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am pleased to attach herewith a statement by the members of the Yemen Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum, condemning the Houthi's illegitimate appointment of a military colonel as the Commission's Secretary-General (see annex).

I should greatly appreciate it if the statement would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marwan A. **Al-Dobhany**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

18-12018 (E) 200718 230718

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## Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

### Statement issued by the Yemen Supreme Commission for Elections

We, the members of Yemen Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum, condemn the appointment by the de facto authorities in Sana'a of a military colonel as the Commission's Secretary-General. By taking that action, which shows no regard for the independence of the Commission, the de facto authorities have flagrantly violated the neutrality and independence of the Commission and grossly interfered in its affairs. They have done so despite a court judgment upholding the independence of the Commission and prohibiting interference in any of its affairs, including appointments. We also condemn the handover procedures that are taking place under duress and without the Commission's consent.

We emphasize that the Commission does not endorse any actions that our colleagues may be forced to take. Even if enacted, those actions do not reflect the Commission's convictions and will not be recognized. We call upon the international and human rights organizations to stand against such actions, protect the Commission from any measures that could affect its independence and neutrality, and protect the safety and neutrality of its members.

United Nations A/72/935–S/2018/714

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
19 July 2018

Original: English

**General Assembly**
**Seventy-second session**
Agenda items 34 and 109

**Prevention of armed conflict**

**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

**Security Council**
**Seventy-third year**

## Letter dated 18 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the fourth anniversary of the downing of flight MH17 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34 and 109, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-12028 (E) 230718

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## Annex to the letter dated 18 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the fourth anniversary of the downing of flight MH17

17 July will forever remain in our memory as a tragic day of a terrible terrorist act, which killed 298 people. Four years ago, the Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 was shot down by the Russian anti-aircraft missile system "Buk".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its sincere condolences to all relatives and next of kin of those who died in this catastrophe.

Currently it is our common duty and matter of honour to establish and bring to justice those involved in the downing of the Malaysian Airlines flight MH17.

Throughout four years, the Joint Investigation Team, which includes investigators and prosecutors from the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium, Malaysia and Ukraine, has been working hard and scrupulously in order to identify perpetrators and bring them to justice.

It has already been established that the missile system "Buk", which shot down the MH17, belonged to the 53rd Air Defence Brigade of the Russian Armed Forces. It was illegally delivered on the territory of Ukraine through the uncontrolled part of the Ukrainian-Russian state border and hastily returned back to Russia after the downing of the aircraft.

Such actions are not only criminally punishable, but also constitute violation of the norms of international law. Ukraine resorted to the International Court of Justice to prove that the Russian Federation, by such actions, violated the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

Ukraine welcomes and supports the initiative of the Netherlands and Australia to bring the Russian Federation to responsibility for its role in downing the MH17 flight.

Last week the Agreement between Ukraine and the Netherlands on international legal cooperation regarding crimes related to the downing of flight MH17 was almost simultaneously ratified by the parliaments of the Netherlands and Ukraine.

We will continue to provide all possible assistance in this important case and will cooperate with our partners for the sake of the establishment of justice.

United Nations S/2018/715

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 July 2018

Original: English

# Credentials of the representative of Kazakhstan on the Security Council

## Report of the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 17 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations stating that Mr. Yerlik Ali, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the African Union, will represent Kazakhstan at the 8314th meeting of the Security Council, to be held on 18 July 2018.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

18-11977 (E) 200718

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United Nations S/2018/716

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 July 2018

Original: English

## Letter dated 17 July 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship, signed by the State of Eritrea and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on 9 July 2018, has effectively ended 20 years of political impasse between the two countries. The ministerial committee appointed by the two leaders will lead the implementation of the agreed five pillars, including the decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission and the joint engagement "to ensure regional peace, development and cooperation". This is a very promising development with the potential to bring positive change to the peace and security outlook for the region and beyond — a fact recognized by the Security Council in its latest statement on the issue.

During my recent visit to Addis Ababa, I had the opportunity to hear the reflections of the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, regarding these developments and received a letter requesting my good offices "to facilitate a resolution on the complete lifting of the sanctions imposed on Eritrea through Security Council resolution 1907 (2009) with immediate effect". I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter from the Prime Minister (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council for their consideration.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

18-12129 (E) 250718

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**Annex**

## Request to lift United Nations sanctions imposed against Eritrea

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Ethiopia and Eritrea have just signed a Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship. After a 20-year military standoff, we held a peace summit in Asmara and agreed to normalize ties between the two nations. Undoubtedly, this historic breakthrough will have unprecedented and far-reaching results in significantly improving the stability of the Horn of Africa and beyond.

Through the Joint Declaration, we have agreed to end a state of war that lasted for two decades and to usher a new era of peace and friendship between the two countries. We have further agreed to forge intimate political, economic, social, cultural and security cooperation that serves and advances the interests of our people. We also made the commitment to jointly work towards ensuring regional peace, development and cooperation. Indeed, this Joint Declaration represents a historic milestone and will help to deepen efforts to bring about lasting peace between the people of the two countries.

In the light of this historic milestone and the commitment made by the Government of Eritrea to work towards maintaining regional peace and cooperation, we would like to kindly request your good office to facilitate a resolution on the complete lifting of the sanctions imposed on Eritrea through Security Council resolution 1907 (2009) with immediate effect.

We are fully convinced that such a measure would promote peacebuilding in the region in general and the two nations in particular. The Ethiopian Government appreciates the support and kind considerations of the United Nations Security Council in this endeavour.

(*Signed*) Abiy **Ahmed**
FDRE Prime Minister

United Nations S/2018/717

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 July 2018
English
Original: Russian

# Letter dated 18 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for 17 and 18 July 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) D. **Polyanskiy**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

18-12139 (E) 250718 090818

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## Annex to the letter dated 18 July 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (17 July 2018)

### Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported six incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: four in Ladhiqiyah, one in Aleppo and one in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any incidents of gunfire.

### Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has carried out two humanitarian operations:

- One in Abu Darikhah, Aleppo Governorate (650 food parcels with a total weight of 2.8 tons were distributed as humanitarian aid); and
- One in Tafas, Dar'a Governorate (450 food parcels with a total weight of 1.9 tons were distributed as humanitarian aid).

In total, 1,869 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,802.26 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 78 residents.

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 85,907 residents.

### Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

## Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (18 July 2018)

### Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported five incidents of gunfire: four in Ladhiqiyah Governorate and one in Hama Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any incidents of gunfire.

### Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,869 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,802.26 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 12 residents.

### Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/718

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 July 2018

Original: English

# Letter dated 20 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write to acknowledge the Security Council's letter of 31 May 2018, which I had duly shared with our authorities concerned. On their behalf, I wish to thank the Council for the kind words addressed to the Government of the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, and the people of Bangladesh.

We are indeed very grateful to the Security Council for the recognition of our continuing efforts to address the humanitarian needs of the 1.1 million Rohingyas who have sought shelter in our country and for the assistance of the international community in alleviating the suffering of this desperate Rohingya population. We may not be able to continue to make any headway unless the international community, especially the Security Council, remains engaged as custodian of our efforts. As rightly underscored by the Secretary-General during his recent visit to the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh, the Council has to take concerted and determined action to address the Rohingya crisis.

The Government of Bangladesh is aware of the perils posed by the monsoon and cyclone seasons. We assure you that the Government is doing everything at its disposal to minimize the risks and support the vulnerable population among the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals, many of whom are currently sheltered on the slopes in areas recently deforested to accommodate their influx from Myanmar. New land has been provided to build shelters for the most vulnerable ones requiring immediate relocation. We would welcome assistance from the United Nations to further advance these efforts. We would also welcome specialized assistance from the United Nations for the protection of the victims of grave human rights abuses, including sexual violence, to shield them against trafficking and exploitation, and to provide basic education and skills in the coming days.

We are encouraged by the Security Council's assurance of support towards facilitating the voluntary, safe and dignified return of the Rohingyas to Myanmar's Rakhine State. The protracted presence of the Rohingyas in Bangladesh not only is detrimental to our security and national interests but will also have long-term negative impacts on the Rohingya people. While we continue to engage in good faith with Myanmar with a view to implementing the provisions of the arrangements of return signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar, we regret that the necessary conditions for safe and sustainable return do not exist in Myanmar. Nor has Myanmar taken any demonstrable effort to address the concerns of the Rohingyas and the international community.

18-12130 (E) 300718

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We believe that the visit of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Myanmar would offer the Security Council the opportunity to hear about her first-hand assessment of the prevailing situation on the ground as far as the Rohingyas' voluntary repatriation is concerned.

Unfortunately, instead of recognizing the catastrophic scale of the crisis and its grave impact on Bangladesh, Myanmar, in its letter to the Security Council dated 27 June 2018, attempts to downplay it by erroneously claiming that the "reported number of displaced persons who left for the Bangladesh side is much inflated". Myanmar asserts that the "real figure cannot be higher than half a million", which itself is massive in scale, whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has placed the total number of displaced Rohingyas at 887,661 as at 14 June 2018.

Yet we would continue to engage with Myanmar to help address any practical challenges to the Rohingyas' voluntary repatriation and expect it to proceed in a constructive manner so as to avoid any pretext for delaying the process. Our continuous engagement with Myanmar, including the forthcoming visit of our Foreign Minister to Rakhine State to see for himself the preparations for repatriation on the Myanmar side, bears testimony to our sincerity in this regard.

In its letter to the Security Council dated 27 June 2018, Myanmar has accused Bangladesh of building bunkers near the border line, in violation of the boundary demarcation treaty of 1998, which prohibits the building of any structure within 150 feet of the border line. We are utterly dismayed by such false and baseless claims. The bunker closest to the Bangladesh side of the border is situated at a distance of 654 feet of the border line (see annex). As regards the structures between boundary pillars Nos. 34 and 35, those are basically temporary shelters built by the displaced Rohingyas who had fled their homes in northern Rakhine but did not cross the border and therefore fall within the Myanmar side of the border line.*

As for the commencement of the repatriation of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals verified by Myanmar, we would like to draw attention to article 2 (b) of the memorandum of understanding signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh, which stipulates that the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals choosing to return are entitled to do so in conditions of safety and dignity, which has to be assured by Myanmar, and that they should not be required to return to a containment facility or to a camp for internally displaced persons (article 2 (c)). We would like to invite the engagement of the Security Council to ensure such conducive conditions in Myanmar to facilitate the return of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals.

I take this opportunity to emphasize that the Government of Prime Minister Hasina maintains a "zero tolerance" policy towards terrorism. We have unequivocally condemned any attack on Myanmar security forces and offered assistance to jointly combat terrorism. Nonetheless, such attacks do not justify the incitement to hatred, disproportionate use of force, violence and atrocity crimes against the Rohingyas through their collective characterization as "terrorists". Such a policy is inconsistent with the intention to allow the safe and dignified return of the Rohingyas to their homeland.

We note that establishing a framework for cooperation between the United Nations and Myanmar is a step in the right direction. There is, however, a need for transparency and a demonstration of concrete deliverables so that the Rohingyas can gain the required trust and confidence that, upon returning to their homes in Rakhine State, they will not be subject to further discrimination and violence. Moreover, it is

* Images and maps are on file with the Secretariat and available for consultation.

of the utmost importance that the remaining Rohingyas residing in Rakhine State are guaranteed unconditional protection (through the creation and maintenance of United Nations-administered safe zones) within Myanmar. We continue to work towards achieving tangible progress, which requires action by Myanmar as the source of the humanitarian crisis. We express our gratitude to the Security Council for its continued involvement.

Since the beginning of the crisis in August 2017, Bangladesh has been acting responsibly and resorting to all possible peaceful means to resolve the recurrent Rohingya crisis permanently and sustainably. Our Prime Minister has made very specific proposals at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, which include the complete cessation of violence in Myanmar, sending a fact-finding mission of the Secretary-General to Myanmar, the protection of civilians inside Myanmar with the involvement of the United Nations, the sustainable return of Rohingyas to their homes in Myanmar and the full and unconditional implementation of the recommendations of the Kofi Annan-led Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. We need the unremitting attention of the Security Council for the early and effective realization of those proposals.

The Security Council's upcoming consultations on the situation in Myanmar should hopefully pave the way for the possible adoption of a much-anticipated resolution. The Government and people of Bangladesh would consider that to be an important next step for the Council to demonstrate its unity of purpose.

I would greatly appreciate it if the present letter could be circulated among the members of the Security Council as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Masud **Bin Momen**

**Annex to the letter dated 20 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | |
| 2. | [illegible] | TUMBRU LEFT CAMP AROUND ROUNDABOUT | [illegible] | |
| 3. | TUMBRU LEFT CAMP (KONAPARA) | MG | [illegible] | |
| 4. | TUMBRU LEFT CAMP (KONAPARA) | MG | [illegible] | |
| 5. | TUMBRU LEFT CAMP (KONAPARA) | LMG | 300 FEET | |
| 6. | TUMBRU LEFT CAMP (KONAPARA) | MG | 300 FEET | |
| 7. | TUMBRU LEFT CAMP (KONAPARA) | LMG | 300 FEET | |
| 8. | TUMBRU RIGHT CAMP (PURBAPARA) | LMG | 300 FEET | |
| 9. | TUMBRU RIGHT CAMP (PURBAPARA) | LMG | 300 FEET | |
| 10. | TUMBRU RIGHT CAMP (PURBAPARA) | LMG | 300 FEET | |
| 11. | TUMBRU RIGHT CAMP (PURBAPARA) | LMG | 300 FEET | |
| 12. | TUMBRU RIGHT CAMP (PURBAPARA) | LMG | 300 FEET | |
| 13. | TUMBRU RIGHT CAMP (PURBAPARA) | LMG | 300 FEET | |
| 14. | TUMBRU RIGHT CAMP (PURBAPARA) | LMG | 300 FEET | |
| 15. | TUMBRU RIGHT CAMP (UTTARPARA) | RIFLE | 300 FEET | |
| 16. | TUMBRU RIGHT CAMP (UTTARPARA) | RIFLE | 300 FEET | |
| 17. | TUMBRU RIGHT CAMP (UTTARPARA) | RIFLE | 300 FEET | |
| 18. | TUMBRU RIGHT CAMP (UTTARPARA) | RIFLE | 300 FEET | |

[illegible] OF BUNKER-BANGLADESH [illegible]

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | |
| 2. | GHUMDHUM BOP (NOYAPARA) | LMG | 984 FEET | |
| 3. | GHUMDHUM BOP (JOLPAITOLI) | LMG | 1638 FEET | |
| 4. | GHUMDHUM BOP (NOYAPARA) | MG | 854 FEET | |
| 5. | GHUMDHUM BOP (JOLPAITOLI) | MG | 654 FEET | |
| 6. | TUMBRU BOP (INFRONT OF TUMBRU UP) | MG | 984 FEET | |
| 7. | TUMBRU BOP (KONAPARA) | RIFLE | 1500 FEET | |

United Nations A/72/936–S/2018/719

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
25 July 2018

Original: English

**General Assembly**
**Seventy-second session**
Agenda item 34 (a)
**Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed conflict**

**Security Council**
**Seventy-third year**

## Letter dated 19 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in connection with reports on leakage of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission official data for the benefit of the Russian Federation special services (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-12371 (E) 300718

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## Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in connection with reports on leakage of the Special Monitoring Mission official data for the benefit of the Russian Federation special services

19 July 2018

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine perceived with concern reports on the threat to security of the monitors of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in Ukraine due to the likely interference of the Russian Federation special services into the work of the SMM aimed at discrediting the SMM's monitoring activities in line with its mandate.

In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested the SMM to inform on the measures that would be taken to avoid the recurrence of such cases in the future.

The Ukrainian side condemns any actions that negatively affect the safety of SMM monitors, including threats to their address, restriction of freedom of movement or theft of official or private data.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly condemns the continuation by the Russian Federation of a purposeful policy of aggression against Ukraine, including by undermining the authority of the SMM and preventing the Mission from fulfilling its mandate.

United Nations S/2018/720

Security Council

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19 July 2018

Original: English

# Credentials of the deputy representative of Côte d'Ivoire on the Security Council

## Report of the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 18 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations stating that Mr. Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo has been appointed deputy representative of Côte d'Ivoire on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

18-12031 (E) 230718

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General Assembly
Security Council

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**General Assembly**
**Seventy-second session**
Agenda item 72 (c)
**Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives**

**Security Council**
**Seventy-third year**

## Letter dated 13 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the decisions of the Russian occupation authorities in Crimea in the cases of Ukrainian citizens Yevhen Panov and Volodymyr Balukh (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-12133 (E) 250718

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## Annex to the letter dated 13 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Comment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the decisions of the Russian occupation authorities in Crimea in the cases of Ukrainian citizens Yevhen Panov and Volodymyr Balukh

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its resolute protest over the decisions of the so-called "courts" of the Russian occupation authorities of 13 July 2018 on the cases of citizens of Ukraine Yevhen Panov and Volodymyr Balukh.

The charges against Yevhen Panov of "involving in subversive and terrorist activities" are fabricated and politically motivated, and his sentence to 8 years in a high-security colony is illegitimate.

It is of particular concern that Yevhen Panov faced tortures during "pre-trial investigations", which is a flagrant violation of the basic norms of international law in the human rights area, enshrined, inter alia, in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a number of international conventions against tortures and other inhuman treatment.

We strongly condemn the ongoing repressions against Volodymyr Balukh, who has been denied today the parole by the "zaliznychnyi district court" in the occupied Simferopol.

We demand from the occupant country to stop repressions against the citizens of Ukraine Yevhen Panov, Volodymyr Balukh and over 60 of our compatriots, who are held by the Kremlin regime in Russia and in the occupied Crimea, to release them and to provide their unhindered return home.

We demand once again that Russia must implement to their full the resolutions of the UN General Assembly "Territorial integrity of Ukraine" of 27 March 2014, "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine" of 19 December 2016 and of 19 December 2017 as well as the order of the International Court of Justice regarding provisional measures in the case of Ukraine vs Russia regarding the application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

We call on the international community and international human rights organizations to use all possible legal and diplomatic means aimed at releasing the Ukrainian citizens, illegally detained in Russia and in temporarily occupied Crimea; bringing those responsible for human rights violations and tortures in occupied Crimea to account; as well as to strengthen their pressure on the occupant state to restore the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

United Nations A/72/938–S/2018/722

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**General Assembly**
**Seventy-second session**
Agenda items 34, 72 (c) and 74

**Prevention of armed conflict**

**Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives**

**Report of the International Court of Justice**

**Security Council**
**Seventy-third year**

## Letter dated 19 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the reaction of the International Court of Justice on Ukraine's request to interpret its order on the provisional measures (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 72 (c) and 74, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-12373 (E) 300718

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## Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the reaction of the International Court of Justice on Ukraine's request to interpret its order on the provisional measures

Today, the International Court of Justice informed the Agent of Ukraine — Deputy Foreign Minister Olena Zerkal on its position regarding implementation by the Russian Federation the Court's Order of 19 April 2017 indicating provisional measures in the case Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ukraine v. Russian Federation).

In that Order, the Court required Russia to "refrain from maintaining or imposing limitations on the ability of the Crimean Tatar community to conserve its representative institutions, including the Mejlis".

In defiance of this clear order, the Russian Federation has failed to lift its ban on the Mejlis, first imposed in April 2016. In letters to the Parties today, the Court has reaffirmed the binding nature of its Order and directed Russia to report on concrete steps taken to implement it by 18 January 2019.

Continued defiance by Russia of the World Court's binding orders will not be accepted.

Ukraine calls upon the Russian Federation to live up to its international obligations by promptly suspending its ban on the Mejlis, as required by the Court's original Order and its reaffirmation of that Order today.

United Nations S/2018/723

Security Council

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20 July 2018

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# United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia

## Report of the Secretary-General

## I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2366 (2017), by which the Council established the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia and requested me to report on its activities every 90 days. The Security Council took note of my request, on an exceptional basis, to change the submission date of this report to align its time frame with the concluding period of the current administration in Colombia. The report covers the period from 27 March to 20 July 2018.

## II. Major developments

### Presidential elections

2. The period under review was largely dominated by the electoral process. The first and second rounds of presidential elections were held on 27 May and 17 June and, just like the March 2018 legislative elections, they were the most peaceful and inclusive in decades. Iván Duque, of the right-of-centre Centro Democrático political party, in coalition with other parties, won the second round of the elections with over 10 million votes, the largest number ever received by a presidential candidate. He will be sworn in on 7 August. Colombia will also have, for the first time, a woman as Vice-President, Marta Lucía Ramírez. Gustavo Petro came in second with over 8 million votes, the largest number of votes ever cast for a presidential candidate running on a left-of-centre agenda. Under the Statute on Political Opposition adopted in 2018 as part of the peace-related legislation, Gustavo Petro is entitled to a seat in the Senate as the runner-up in the presidential election. His running mate, Ángela María Robledo, will take up a seat in the Chamber of Representatives. Only a year after the end of the conflict between the State and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP), Colombian politics are undoubtedly changing.

3. At the same time, the weeks following the elections witnessed an upsurge in killings of social leaders. The violence was met with widespread repudiation throughout Colombian society, and demonstrations were held in more than 50 cities both in Colombia and abroad. The President, Juan Manuel Santos, called for a national pact against this form of violence; the pact has been signed by both the President and President-elect Duque, key State institutions and political parties. The President



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called a special meeting of the National Commission on Security Guarantees that included the participation of several civil society organizations outside the Commission. Among decisions adopted at the meeting was the establishment of special protection measures for social leaders supporting opposition parties active in the country's interior. The increase in the number of killings confirms the urgency of dealing with the pattern of violence that continues to affect principally the rural areas. The new Government will have to put this issue at the centre of its agenda, and the judicial system will have to redouble efforts to bring perpetrators to account.

4. In his acceptance speech, President-elect Duque stated that his intention was to unite the country and "turn the page on polarization". Regarding the peace process, he reaffirmed statements made during his campaign that his Government would not challenge the bulk of the Peace Agreement, but would seek "corrections" through a national agreement. The nature of those modifications is the subject of an intense debate, particularly with regard to transitional justice.

5. Following the presidential election, I welcomed President-elect Duque's intention to work towards healing the divisions between Colombians and reiterated the strong commitment of the United Nations to accompany Colombia in consolidating the hard-won gains of peace and in achieving reconciliation after so many years of conflict. At a meeting with my Special Representative shortly after the election, the President-elect expressed his intention to work with the United Nations, including the Mission, towards that end.

## Legislative developments

6. The current Congress concluded its regular session on 20 June, and an extraordinary session, called to approve pending peace-related measures, ended on 3 July. On 28 June, Congress approved the rules of procedure for the Special Jurisdiction for Peace which will enable the institution to start operating more effectively. Two amendments were included: a restriction of the role of the Special Jurisdiction in extradition processes, and an option for military and police to have their cases put on hold until the establishment of a special chamber to deal with those cases. The Government has expressed its intention to request constitutional review of those provisions.

7. Congress also approved legislation to encourage criminal organizations and illegal armed groups to subject themselves collectively to regular justice and to authorize the holding of a referendum on measures to address corruption. On 18 June, the Government announced that the referendum would be held on 26 August, giving citizens the opportunity to vote on proposals regarding the management of public resources.

## Constitutional Court review

8. The Constitutional Court continued its review of peace-related legislation approved under fast-track procedures. It upheld the constitutionality of Legislative Act No. 3, by which 10 seats were created for the political party People's Alternative Revolutionary Force (FARC) in the Congress; Legislative Act No. 4 on the use of royalties from natural resource extraction to finance post-conflict projects; the Statute on Political Opposition, which grants greater guarantees to the political opposition; Decree Law 902 to create a land fund for farmers, including ethnic communities and victims, and other measures to improve access to land; Decree Law 706 on special treatment for members of public security forces under the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition; and Law 1865, which modifies the structure of the National Protection Unit to include former FARC-EP members as close protection officers. The Court also upheld Decree Law 700, which allows filing

a writ of *habeas corpus* in cases of undue deprivation of liberty; Decree 589, which created the Unit for the Search for Disappeared Persons; and Decree Law 775, which regulates a technical and specialized defence system for members of the public security forces. Although the Court has reviewed 92 per cent of the peace-related legislation approved under fast-track procedures, critical measures such as the statute on the Special Jurisdiction for Peace are still pending.

**Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition**

9. The Special Jurisdiction for Peace has received its first referrals of cases from the Supreme Court and information from the Office of the Attorney General, the National Centre for Historical Memory and civil society organizations. It has begun selecting and prioritizing cases. To date, 4,653 members of FARC-EP and 2,159 members of the military and police have signed commitments to come under the jurisdiction of the new institution. On 10 July the Special Jurisdiction conducted its first public hearing, of a Major General of the Colombian Armed Forces accused of crimes committed during the conflict. He appeared voluntarily before the Special Jurisdiction and committed himself to full disclosure of the truth. Another public hearing, focused on cases of kidnapping by FARC-EP, was held on 13 July, with the participation or legal representation of 31 members of the former General Staff, 6 of whom were among the 10 FARC party members expected to hold a seat in the incoming Congress under the terms of the Peace Agreement. During this reporting period, the Special Jurisdiction has rejected the applications of people accused of drug trafficking who were seeking benefits from the transitional justice provisions.

10. In another important step, on 29 June, FARC leader Rodrigo Londoño and the majority of the FARC members who will be taking up seats in the Congress appeared before the Truth Commission to begin the process of accepting responsibility, clarifying the truth and acknowledging victims. During this first session, senior FARC members and the Truth Commission defined an agenda to take the process forward.

**Substitution of illicit crops**

11. The fight against illicit drugs has gained increasing relevance as the pattern of violence in the rural areas increasingly overlaps with the map of illegal economies. Under the National Comprehensive Programme for the Substitution of Illicit Crops established in May 2017, 77,659 families have signed voluntary substitution agreements committing them to eradicate around 45,000 ha of coca. So far, about 15,000 ha have been eradicated, as verified by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Twenty-nine technical agreements between UNODC and local farmer organizations have been signed as at 12 July, and will benefit 29,523 families. Fifty-four former FARC-EP members participate in the coca substitution programme, focusing on relations with communities. Despite these efforts, estimates of coca cultivation continue to rise. It is disconcerting that some community leaders who are participants in the voluntary programme have been killed or subjected to threats from drug traffickers. Families have also complained of a lack of resources dedicated to the programme and delays in the provision of complementary community and regional investments intended to improve infrastructure and address rural poverty. These challenges weaken the sustainability of the substitution agreements reached with local communities.

12. The increasing figures relating to coca cultivation, the proliferation of armed groups vying for control of these areas, the continuing violence to which coca-growing communities are subjected, and the spread of drug addiction, including in rural communities, point to the importance of combating the drug trade as an integral part of the effort to advance peace, development and the rule of law in the former conflict areas. As demonstrated by the experience of the past couple of years,

communities themselves and their organizations can spearhead this effort, but more sustainable and better coordinated efforts by State institutions to provide security, infrastructure, land and economic alternatives are a prerequisite for success. A national agreement across political parties and social organizations would be a significant factor for success.

**Negotiations between the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army**

13. The fifth round of talks between the Government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN), which had begun on 15 March, was extended until 15 June. In a joint statement issued on 18 May, by which they announced the formal installation of a technical committee tasked with the design of a new ceasefire agreement, the parties expressed their intention of keeping informed the Episcopal Conference of Colombia and the United Nations Verification Mission of any progress. The sixth cycle of the talks was launched on 2 July and is currently under way. The two key items on the agenda continue to be the achievement of an improved ceasefire agreement and the design of community-based participation in the peace process.

## III. Mission tasks

14. The Government, FARC and the Mission identified a series of steps to advance the implementation of the reintegration of FARC members and the security guarantees for communities, organizations and leaders in areas most affected by conflict. Some progress was achieved amid persistent challenges. There are lessons to be learned from this process that should help the incoming Government as it takes on responsibility for the consolidation of the peace process, in particular, the tasks under verification.

### A. Socioeconomic reintegration

**Landownership and productive projects**

15. I put special emphasis in my last report on the importance of translating a number of legal and technical measures adopted during the previous period into actual income-generating opportunities. On 4 May, the President issued a landmark decree enabling access to landownership for former combatants organized in cooperatives. On 7 June, the National Reintegration Council decided to initiate the purchase of land for six productive projects it had already approved. In San José del Guaviare, the first plot of land is expected to be purchased before the end of the month. Another modality has been identified by the Government and FARC that would allow for the inclusion of a land purchase component in projects presented before the National Reintegration Council for approval and funding.

16. Measures taken to ensure land access are encouraging. However, following months of efforts so far only about 400 ha are in the process of being allocated to former combatants. While the path to the acquisition of land for former combatants has now been designed, it will be the next Government's responsibility to make it widely and promptly available to former combatants in the territorial areas for training and reintegration and other settlements.

17. Similarly, there is partial progress in implementing the decree on cooperatives. Seventy cooperatives of former FARC-EP members have been established but only eight of them are fully legalized and are able to operate. This is another step in ensuring the viability and sustainability of productive activities.

18. Regarding productive projects, which so far have been mostly self-funded by former FARC-EP combatants, the initial goal of the National Reintegration Council was to have one project approved and funded in each of the territorial areas for training and reintegration. So far eight projects have been approved with the technical assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Government funds have been disbursed for three of them. Ten additional projects could be approved by the end of July and 11 more are being formulated with the support of national agencies. Notwithstanding these efforts, the fundamental goal of providing income-generating opportunities for 14,000 former combatants is far from being realized. In the interim, the Government has made the welcome decision to extend food assistance to the territorial areas for training and reintegration until the end of 2018.

19. The assistance of the international community in supporting productive initiatives has proved significant. A special fund has been established to co-finance productive projects under the responsibility of the National Reintegration Council. Various projects have received support from the United Nations system (UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Mine Action Service, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the World Food Programme (WFP)) and funding from the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund. One project recently launched by WFP purchases produce from several territorial areas for training and reintegration to feed children as part of its school feeding programme. To help existing small-scale and self-funded initiatives of former combatants, the Mission and UNDP have been working alongside the Government and FARC to support 37 existing projects in 25 territorial areas and 12 new settlements, 5 of which are led by women.

20. Private companies and foundations are also making increasing contributions to the reintegration process. In the Department of Cauca, a multinational company specializing in high-quality coffee will now have among its suppliers 650 former combatants across the territorial areas for training and reintegration of Cauca. Similar initiatives have been taken by Colombian private foundations.

21. The working group on gender of the National Reintegration Council has been increasingly active in including a gender-sensitive approach to economic reintegration, with support from UNDP, UN-Women and the Mission. Challenges remain, including the availability of childcare, among other measures to enable the active and meaningful participation of women in productive projects.

### Departmental working groups on reintegration

22. An encouraging development is the establishment in recent months of reintegration committees at the departmental level, which coordinate resources for technical assistance, health, education and gender, among others. These departmental initiatives — six so far — have helped to embed reintegration efforts in local realities and made departmental resources and expertise available for reintegration.

### Lessons learned

23. Some of the lessons learned from what has been a complex and difficult process of reintegration were drawn on the occasion of a forum of governors organized by the Minister of the Interior, the High Commissioner for Peace and the Mission in June. Its four conclusions pointed to (a) the need to understand the reintegration of former combatants as part of a broader process of community development and reconciliation in the regions where reintegration is taking place; (b) the need for vigorous decentralization of the reintegration process, in particular the National Reintegration

Council, so as to bring expertise and resources closer to the social and economic dynamics of the regions; (c) the need to ensure a closer relationship with the private sector, which has shown interest and capacity to support productive projects by former combatants; and (d) the usefulness of connecting international assistance more directly to regional initiatives.

24. The relevance of closely linking reintegration activities with local development has increased as a result of the shifting geography of reintegration. Today, while around 4,000 former FARC-EP members remain in and around the territorial areas for training and reintegration, over 2,000 have moved to several dozen new regrouping points, and thousands more are broadly dispersed throughout the country, including in major cities. Under the circumstances, long-term reintegration, both collective and individual, will be a function of available economic opportunities at the local and departmental levels.

25. Consistent with these lessons, the long-awaited strategy for the long-term reintegration of former combatants was agreed between the Government and FARC, and adopted as a public policy document on 5 July. Covering an eight-year period until 2026, its cost is estimated at $220 million. It calls for enhanced coordination between actors involved in reintegration, merging of reintegration with local development actions aimed at strengthening the social fabric of communities, a focus on sustainable economic futures for the former combatants and their families, and access to health, education and social services. The strategy provides the new Government with an agreed policy framework that should improve the prospect of effective long-term reintegration.

## B. Political reintegration

26. In accordance with Legislative Act No. 3, on FARC political participation, on 20 July 10 FARC representatives, 2 of whom are women, are to take their seats in Congress — 5 seats in the Senate and 5 in the Chamber of Representatives. The President-elect has stated that, while he did not oppose the assignment of 10 seats to the FARC party, he objected to those FARC members accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity taking up FARC seats in Congress before having served sentences handed down by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. He has indicated his intention to seek a national consensus on this matter.

## C. Legal guarantees

27. The Government has worked to complete its review of former FARC-EP members and accredit and notify as many as possible prior to the end of the current administration. It has made significant progress during this period. The Special Jurisdiction for Peace and its Chamber on Amnesty provide a process for taking up unresolved issues relating to legal guarantees for former FARC-EP members as set out in the Peace Agreement.

28. As mentioned in earlier reports, FARC-EP had on 15 August 2017 submitted a list of 14,178 individuals it identified as its former members, prompting a process of review and certification of those names by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace. In this reporting period, the increasing dispersion of former FARC-EP members required more proactive efforts to locate and inform individuals of their accreditation, to ensure that they are incorporated into broader reintegration benefits and processes. The Office of the High Commissioner, FARC and the Mission jointly supported visits to several departments for this purpose. As at mid-July, the total number of former FARC-EP members accredited by the Office of the High

Commissioner is around 13,000 and 12,623 of those individuals have been notified and provided with their accreditation. The Office of the High Commissioner is open to continuing with the accreditation process.

29. FARC has indicated that it is consolidating a list of approximately 1,000 former FARC-EP members who, for various reasons, it was not able to include in the original list submitted in August 2017. The Government has agreed to review the names for their inclusion in a special individual route for reintegration, the details of which are under consideration.

30. At the time of the signing of the Peace Agreement in November 2016, there were around 3,500 former FARC-EP members identified in prison, approximately 8 per cent of them women. By the end of June, 208 accredited members remain in prison, 3 per cent of whom are women. The Special Jurisdiction for Peace has agreed to prioritize the review of whether to grant conditional liberty to accredited former FARC-EP members still in prison, pending determination of their legal status. An additional 230 people, designated as "peace advocates", were previously given temporary conditional liberty and, on 17 April, the President extended those benefits until their legal status is resolved. There are 313 more individuals included in the FARC-EP list, most of whom are in prison, whose potential accreditation by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace remains under review.

31. The Peace Agreement calls for the provision of legal aid and support for individuals who will come under the different components of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Repetition. On 11 July, the Decree on the creation of the Independent System for Advice and Defence was approved.

32. On 9 April, Seuxis Pausias Hernández Solarte, alias Jesus Santrich, one of the FARC leaders put forward to take a seat in Congress, was arrested for extradition pursuant to an INTERPOL Red Notice. A formal request for his extradition was presented by the United States of America on 6 June. Under the Constitution, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace is competent to review extradition requests for those under its jurisdiction in order to determine whether the alleged conduct occurred after the signing of the Peace Agreement, in which case Mr. Hernandez could be subject to extradition. The Special Jurisdiction has 120 days to make a determination.

33. The detention of Mr. Hernández has caused considerable alarm among FARC members, particularly those in the territorial areas for training and reintegration. They are sceptical of the allegations and concerned that any other FARC member could be similarly charged. This case compounds the former FARC-EP members' widespread sense of legal uncertainty that results from the continuing controversy over the transitional justice system.

## D. Security guarantees

### Tripartite coordination for protection and security

34. The Tripartite Protection and Security Mechanism continues to be the main mechanism for coordination between the National Protection Unit, the national police and the Mission, with the accompaniment of the armed forces. It provides for the security of former FARC-EP members and serves to build trust between the parties. During this period, the Mechanism successfully coordinated security measures during the two rounds of the presidential elections, during which there were no security incidents. During the past three months, the Mechanism has expanded and local mechanisms have now been established in 14 regions and 22 territorial areas for training and reintegration. Within the Mechanism, the National Protection Unit, with

the support of the Mission, is drafting a manual on the specific risks faced by female FARC members.

35. The Tripartite Protection and Security Mechanism and the Specialized Directorate of the National Protection Unit have proved to be valuable tools that need to be strengthened by enhancing their capacity to assess risks and design security measures, particularly for former FARC-EP members who have relocated to new settlements.

### Security deployment around territorial areas

36. Public security forces continue to provide security to territorial areas for training and reintegration and, in many cases, have maintained cooperative relationships with the former combatants. It was generally expected that the presence of security forces would have a broad deterrent impact on violence in the surrounding areas. However, as discussed in paragraph 40 below, in five of the territorial areas and surrounding areas the security situation has deteriorated and assassinations and armed attacks on former combatants and local inhabitants have taken place close to the territorial areas and in nearby communities. These cases highlight the need for a more proactive presence of public security forces in areas vulnerable to armed groups.

37. As previously mentioned, FARC members are increasingly spread across new settlements without a clear legal framework for the deployment of security forces. Some settlements are in urban settings, which require a distinct approach. There has been some coordination between the inhabitants of new settlements and the security forces, but this coordination needs to be formalized and consistent.

### Close protection

38. Close protection has been a key element of the security measures implemented for former FARC-EP members. The National Protection Unit has established 136 close protection details for potentially high-risk individuals and former combatants in the territorial areas for training and reintegration. Training and recruitment of additional bodyguards is required to meet the full complement of 1,200 set out in the Peace Agreement. To that effect, an additional 181 were contracted in this period with 102 more required. Prior to the Peace Agreement, there were no women serving as bodyguards in the National Protection Unit. Today, there are 128 women in the Unit, 46 of whom were recruited during this period.

### Security of former FARC-EP members outside the territorial areas for training and reintegration

39. Outside the security mechanisms provided by the public security forces and the National Protection Unit, 51 former FARC-EP members have been killed and 5 others were victims of forced disappearance since August 2017. During this reporting period, 22 former FARC-EP members and 2 relatives were killed. Since January 2018, the Special Investigation Unit of the Attorney General's Office has devoted the bulk of its efforts to the investigation of those cases. As a result of its investigation of 29 cases, the Unit has succeeded in establishing a variety of motives behind the killings and, in 40 per cent of the cases, it has been able to identify the material or intellectual authors or both. Regarding one of the most emblematic cases, the killing of two former FARC-EP members in Peque, Antioquia, in January, the Unit arrested two material authors and one intellectual author of the crime, all members of the Clan de Golfo illegal armed group.

40. On 9 and 10 July, the FARC leadership convened a meeting of representatives from all territorial areas for training and reintegration and new regrouping points, with the participation of the Minister of the Interior, the Tripartite Protection and

Security Mechanism, the security forces and the National Reintegration Agency, to discuss the security challenges to former combatants. The greatest threats identified by former combatants related to drug trafficking. The five territorial areas for training and reintegration with major security threats are precisely those located in historic drug trafficking corridors. The deteriorating security dynamics of the territories coincide with the proliferation of illegal armed groups, recidivist groups and the co-optation of some local civilian and military personnel by drug traffickers. High levels of insecurity due to the slow progress of productive projects in the territorial areas for training and reintegration and new regrouping points are also a factor. It was agreed to develop prevention plans in the territories and security protocols for the protection of communities and leaders, to coordinate the activities of the close protection teams, and to insist upon progress on productive projects.

### Security of communities, organizations and leaders in the areas most affected by the conflict

41. Like most Colombians, I remain gravely concerned at the continuing killings of community leaders and human rights defenders, a problem that spiked in the days following the presidential elections. In a recent statement, the Attorney General has pointed out that the increase in homicides concerns not only leaders but community members as well, as part of a broader increase in violence in many rural areas. Confirming this trend, during the reporting period, 70 per cent of the early warnings issued by the Office of the Ombudsman concerned the imminent risk faced by communities and social and ethnic leaders in relation to land restitution, substitution of illegal crops, and continuous recruitment of children. In addition, the Ombudsman has emphasized the ongoing risks relating to sexual violence in several departments.

42. Undoubtedly this trend continues to be related to actors seeking to control communities, land and resources, particularly in the areas formerly under FARC-EP influence. In some regions, such as the Department of Nariño and Catatumbo in Norte de Santander Department, this situation has resulted in levels of violence not seen since the end of the conflict. For instance, on 3 July, seven persons were killed in Argelia, Cauca, located on a strategic drug trafficking route.

43. The Peace Agreement contemplated an array of tools to address the situation in areas most affected by the conflict. Those included the establishment of the Elite Corps of the national police, to operate in the former conflict areas; the strengthening of the Attorney General's Office through the creation of the Special Investigation Unit dedicated to the dismantling of criminal organizations; the strengthening of the early warning system of the Ombudsman's Office and the response from the State agencies; the programme to substitute illicit crops; the national programme for the protection of communities, their organizations and leaders; legislation setting out a process for criminal and illegal armed organizations to subject themselves to regular justice, and the promotion of national reconciliation through the National Council for Peace and Reconciliation. The Government's Plan Horus has been in place since the end of 2017 and aims at deploying the security forces in the most vulnerable municipalities. All these measures are at different levels of implementation. Collectively, however, they clearly have not yet produced the desired impact. To some extent, the challenge has become even greater. The broad endorsement that followed the urgent call by President Santos for a national pact against violence is an indication of the magnitude of the challenge. The Mission has continued to follow and support the implementation of these measures.

### Early warning system and institutional response

44. With regard to the early warning system, the Mission has followed up on 27 new early warnings in 49 municipalities. Some progress was made by the Intersectoral

Commission for Rapid Response to Early Warnings in coordinating institutional efforts to act on early warnings. However, its effectiveness will require more willingness on the part of regional and local authorities to assume responsibility, and more solution-oriented, measurable and articulated recommendations.

**Attorney General's Office and the Special Investigation Unit**

45. In response to the attacks against social leaders and human rights defenders, the Attorney General's Office has adopted strategic guidelines and elevated the priority given to these cases by several of its prosecution units, including the Special Investigation Unit. According to the latest figures of the Attorney General's Office, of 184 cases since January 2016, there has been progress with relation to 89 cases in which 57 material and 32 intellectual authors were identified.

46. For its part, as from April 2018 the Special Investigation Unit has responsibility for 71 cases of attacks against social leaders and human rights defenders in the 5 departments of Antioquia, Córdoba, Meta, Valle del Cauca and Cauca.

**Comprehensive programme for the security and protection of communities, organizations, social leaders and human rights defenders**

47. The programme of collective measures for communities was approved by presidential decree on 18 April after extensive consultations with a wide array of civil society organizations. It is designed to be a key element of the national public policy on prevention and protection of communities. The Mission is discussing implementation and verification priorities with institutions and civil society organizations.

**Programme for reconciliation, coexistence and prevention of stigmatization**

48. The programme, provided for in the Peace Agreement among the security guarantees for the communities in the zone of conflict, has been led since 2017 by the National Council for Peace and Reconciliation. To date, the Council has formally named 105 members, 70 of them representing 36 sectors of Colombian civil society (44 per cent are women), and 35 representing public institutions including the executive and legislative branches (50 per cent are women). In November 2017, President Santos announced its work plan highlighting three key aspects: (a) territorial councils for peace, reconciliation and coexistence; (b) public policy for reconciliation, coexistence and non-stigmatization; and (c) civic education for peace.

49. To date, the Council has held five regional meetings with high levels of participation from women, youth, ethnic and religious organizations, victims' organizations, former FARC-EP members, farmers and business associations. The Mission will support the activities of this important mechanism for dialogue across diverse sectors of Colombian society.

**National Commission on Security Guarantees**

50. The National Commission on Security Guarantees has focused on drawing up an action plan to tackle and dismantle criminal organizations and criminal activities. It has provided a platform for dialogue and confidence-building between civil society and State actors. Its technical subcommission has held 11 regional sessions to strengthen its links at the departmental and local levels. At the most recent session, on 10 July, dedicated to developing new measures to address the killings of social leaders and human rights defenders, civil society participants presented recommendations to improve the Commission's operations and unanimously stressed the value of its continuation under the incoming Government.

**Lessons learned**

51. With regard to most of the instruments discussed above, there is every reason to stay the course. The early warnings from the Ombudsman's Office have by and large proved accurate, constituting a tool for prevention, and with time and political leadership institutions should be able to respond more effectively. Among State institutions, the Attorney General's Office has been leading in the analysis of the challenges resulting from the absence of the State in the zones of conflict, and its investigations appear to be homing in on the authors of the violence and the structures behind them. The National Council for Peace and Reconciliation and its territorial councils offer a platform for dialogue among sectors of Colombian society on major challenges confronting the country.

52. One of the main shortcomings of the implementation process has been the lack of integration between the various strands of State action in the rural areas. Prioritization, sequencing and geographical focus could maximize the impact of limited resources on the security and welfare of communities. As mentioned in my previous report, the deployment of public security forces has not been combined sufficiently with the provision of goods and services through the civilian presence of the State; nor has the coca substitution programme been combined with other tools of State influence.

**Comprehensive community-based prevention and protection strategies**

53. Precisely to address the need for integration between State services at the community level, during this period the Ministry of the Interior together with the Mission identified four regions as "pilots" for initial implementation of a comprehensive approach to the prevention and protection of communities, in Guapi (Cauca), Tumaco (Nariño), San José de Urré (Córdoba) and El Tarra (Norte de Santander). Civil society, including ethnic and community-based organizations, put forward a variety of innovative proposals, often inexpensive, for their security and protection. The initiative illustrates the value of dialogue with communities, and the need for a nimble and coordinated response from State institutions. The Mission will follow up and support closely these initiatives.

## E. Cross-cutting issues

**Gender mainstreaming and engagement with women's groups**

54. In my previous report I stressed some deficits regarding the inclusion of gender-specific measures in both the reintegration of former combatants and security guarantees for communities. Tangible efforts have been made in this respect during the reporting period.

55. As stated earlier, the working group on gender of the National Reintegration Council is playing an increasingly active role in promoting a gender perspective in the design and implementation of productive projects. The working group proposed 16 gender-specific actions in the recently approved eight-year reintegration policy. In parallel, the Mission, jointly with UN-Women, established a high-level forum to mobilize international action and resources in support of the economic activities of former FARC-EP women and broader inclusion of gender dimensions.

56. Regarding security guarantees, the national police launched a project to increase gender sensitization and the response to gender-based violence in seven regions, and the Ministry of Defence has developed its first policy on gender mainstreaming for the defence sector, including for military personnel deployed to territorial areas for training and reintegration and communities. On behalf of the Tripartite Protection and

Security Mechanism, the National Protection Unit, the Mission and UN-Women are preparing a guidebook on self-protection for female former FARC-EP members. The third and final training course for close protection teams initiated in June includes training on gender-specific protection and, as a result of proactive recruitment measures, the course includes 75 women participants, 46 of whom passed initial screening, a 56 per cent increase in the number of women bodyguards in the National Protection Unit. Finally, on 15 June the Minister of the Interior launched the Comprehensive Programme on Guarantees for Women Human Rights Defenders and Leaders. This initiative, if duly financed, could provide an effective complement to the implementation of Decree 660 (2018), on collective protection measures for communities.

57. The Mission and UN-Women continue to maintain regular dialogue with women's organizations at national and regional levels and with a network of Mission and FARC focal points on gender across the 24 territorial areas for training and reintegration. From 14 to 16 July, the FARC Gender Committee and the Mission held a retreat with over 88 gender focal points from all territorial areas and regions, which offered practical tools to ensure inclusion of women and a gender-sensitive approach in economic activities and in self-protection mechanisms, particularly for women in leadership roles.

**Ethnic perspectives**

58. Modest progress has been made in the integration of ethnic perspectives into the reintegration process. Indigenous organizations have prepared a draft decree setting out procedures for the reintegration of indigenous former FARC-EP members. The draft decree is under review by the National Reintegration Agency. The Agency has budgeted funds for the preparation of a comparable process for the reintegration of Afro-Colombian former combatants; a decision has not yet been taken on whether to include both of these processes in one decree.

59. Regarding the integration of ethnic aspects into the provision of security guarantees for former combatants and communities, there are few advances. This is of particular concern because a significant portion of the social and community leaders killed thus far in 2018 were members of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. Early warnings issued by the Office of the Ombudsman point out that the use of ethnic territories for drug trafficking, illegal mining and other exploitation of natural resources has endangered leaders and, in some cases, led to displacement of communities. Inclusion of ethnic considerations in comprehensive security policies is needed.

60. The High-level Forum of Ethnic Peoples established under the Peace Agreement has not been able to convene regularly and lacks resources.

**Child protection**

61. The Mission continued liaising with the Presidential Counsellor for Human Rights on the cases of 26 children included in the reintegration programme "A Different Path of Life". The Mission observed advances in most cases and continues to closely monitor three cases in Cesar, Antioquia and Chocó, which showed no progress. Through this programme, a total of 110 children have been recognized as victims (although 16 have not yet been notified), 50 have already received monetary compensation and 44 are still awaiting compensation. As at the end of June, 93 participants in the programme had turned 18 and 76 of them are now successfully incorporated into and receiving their entitlements under the adult reintegration programme, including a one-time reintegration allowance and monthly stipends. Five additional cases are in this transition process and 12 are still under protection

measures by the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), IOM and their non-governmental organization partners are providing psycho-social support and leadership training to support the reintegration of these children.

62. The reintegration programme for children requires a clearer legal status to ensure its proper resourcing and sustainability as well as a stronger accountability framework. Indeed, some children have waited long periods to receive information or to access their benefits, causing emotional distress and shortfalls in resources for their daily subsistence. Material support to families must be granted, especially since at least 49 of the families of these children live in conditions of extreme poverty. A decree to clarify the process for adolescents who have decided to continue their reintegration process within the territorial areas for training and reintegration is still under preparation and should be issued as soon as possible.

63. Limited progress was made during this period regarding day-care facilities and living conditions of children in territorial areas for training and reintegration, most of whom are children of former combatants. This is despite the efforts to coordinate with the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare. UNICEF is in the process of supporting a day-care facility in Filipinas, Arauca Department, and will also implement the programme "Somos Paz" for reconciliation in Llano Grande, Antioquia. The Mission is liaising with private sector foundations and local governments to provide resources for day-care facilities in other territorial areas for training and reintegration.

### Youth, peace and security

64. The Mission has observed that a growing number of young men and women are assuming leadership roles within the territorial areas for training and reintegration, and that youth organizations are taking an increasingly active role at the local and national level in supporting reintegration and reconciliation efforts. The Mission has been strengthening its engagement with these youth leaders and organizations, consistent with resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018), and has facilitated contacts and networking between young entrepreneurs, business and civil society leaders and former combatants, specifically regarding reconciliation efforts and support for the former combatants' productive projects. A successful pilot visit of youth leaders to the territorial area Miravalle, where they inaugurated the former combatants' ecotourism project, will be followed by visits to other territorial areas for training and reintegration.

### Liaison and coordination

65. The Mission maintained a productive and continuous dialogue with the two parties, high-level Government officials and the Congress, the churches, private sector representatives and civil society. During this electoral cycle, emphasis was placed on proactive dialogue with the presidential candidates and their teams to share views on the peace process and to identify opportunities to enhance peace implementation.

66. Given the growing role played by regional and local authorities and their continuity in office until the end of 2019, the Mission worked to deepen engagement with governors and to foster exchange of innovative practice among them. This includes the aforementioned Forum of Governors held in June with the participation of the Minister of the Interior, the High Commissioner for Peace, the private sector and 13 governors' offices. The Forum highlighted the need for local leadership, visible peace dividends, private sector engagement and reconciliation, and strengthened links between regional and national authorities to mobilize and align resources.

67. The Mission and the United Nations country team continued to work in close coordination across their mandates. The two thematic groups on reintegration and security guarantees met regularly to exchange information and develop joint analysis. On socioeconomic reintegration, UNDP, FAO, WFP and UN-Women are directly supporting economic initiatives of FARC members; IOM and the United Nations Population Fund are promoting sexual and reproductive health in territorial areas for training and reintegration; and UNICEF is supporting reintegration of children, among broader work with children and adolescents. The Mine Action Service has provided training in humanitarian demining to former FARC members and supported the establishment of their own demining non-governmental organization. Activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in support of local prevention and protection of community activities are complementary to the Mission's focus on verifying and promoting security guarantees.

## IV. Mission structures

### Mission planning and operations

68. In response to the increased dispersion of former FARC-EP members and their partial movement out of some territorial areas for training and reintegration, the Mission is conducting an analysis and evaluation of its own geographical deployment. The review will ensure that the Mission is able to provide adequate verification in both the territorial areas and in new regrouping points. The adjusted deployment will blend the Mission's existing presence with a "hub and spoke" approach, enabling staff to operate from small hub offices from which teams will cover multiple territorial areas for training and reintegration and/or new regrouping points.

### Mission support

69. During this period, the Mission has focused on reallocation of resources in accordance with the movement to a more mobile and responsive hub deployment footprint. This has resulted in the consolidation of six remote camps and the reallocation of resources from nine remote locations to more flexible hubs. All Mission activities including camp and resources reallocation continue to be implemented in full accordance with United Nations environmental standards and policies.

### Safety and security

70. The security risk assessment developed for the Mission predicts that residual risk levels in relation to most identified threats (kidnapping, attack by spoilers, crossfire and violent demonstrations) vary between low and medium. From a security management perspective, the activities planned for the Mission were considered viable insofar as the relevant risk management measures were fully implemented. On sporadic occasions and in specific areas affected by armed confrontations such as the Catatumbo region, missions were temporarily suspended as a risk reduction strategy. United Nations activities have also been restricted because of flooding and landslide hazards in the area affected by the Hidroituango dam crisis.

### Conduct and discipline

71. The Mission continues round-table discussions at headquarters and in the field offices on prevention of sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, and abuse of authority. The Mission also took an active part in a United Nations country team task

force on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, co-chaired by UN-Women and UNHCR.

72. There are no pending conduct and discipline cases in the Mission.

## V. Observations

73. The present report coincides with the culmination of one phase of the peace process in Colombia, and the beginning of a new one, with the inauguration of the new Congress this week, and the swearing-in of the new President on 7 August. Both were elected, as commented by all observers, through the least violent and most participatory elections in decades. The transition of the former FARC-EP from war to politics was undoubtedly a key factor in this outcome, which is among the most tangible benefits of the peace process for society at large. My observations in this report will focus on several broad issues that emerge from the experience of the past couple of years and are meant to help to inform the vision of those responsible for bringing the peace process to completion.

74. The two main actors behind this achievement are President Juan Manuel Santos and the leadership of FARC. Amid the challenges of peace implementation, both parties have recognized each other's merits: President Santos has stressed that FARC had complied with its central commitment of laying down its weapons and embracing peaceful politics, while the FARC leadership continues to recognize that President Santos faced the daunting task of implementing a very ambitious agreement with unquestionable political will. As a participant in this process, I subscribe to both statements and, as a witness to many ongoing conflicts in the world, I thank them for their leadership.

75. The task ahead is to consolidate the peace. Violence in the zones of conflict, including against social leaders and human rights defenders, the proliferation of illegal groups and the growth of the coca economy, as well as frustration and fears among former combatants and among communities who feel bypassed by the peace process, leave no doubt as to the magnitude of the challenges that await the new Government, Colombian institutions and civil society alike. They may not come as a surprise given the long history of conflict in the country, but their deep roots do not take away from the urgency of addressing them. This and prior reports focus on many aspects of the problems at hand, particularly with regard to the reintegration of former combatants and security guarantees for communities.

76. No peace process is exempt from uncertainty, but peace implementation in Colombia has been dogged by levels of uncertainty that have raised deep and understandable misgivings among FARC members reintegrating into society. Between the renegotiation following the plebiscite of October 2016, protracted discussions in Congress on the legislative agenda, the process of review by the Constitutional Court, and now the change in Government, uncertainty continues to surround issues that are at the core of any peace agreement: the legal, political and, ultimately, security guarantees for those who have laid down their weapons and depend on institutions to deliver those guarantees as well as socioeconomic opportunities. In this regard, the country's new authorities have the critical responsibility to restore a sense of confidence about the future among the rank and file, the mid-level commanders and the leadership of the former guerrilla group. It is not only a matter of consolidating the peace process with FARC, it is also a matter of credibility in relation to possible future negotiations with other armed actors. More broadly, it goes to the heart of the principle of the negotiated settlement of armed conflicts, to which the United Nations is deeply committed.

77. The past two years have also demonstrated with utmost clarity that, while the Peace Agreement with FARC-EP has brought about very real change to the country, the peace process with what was the largest guerrilla movement in the country is only part of the broader fundamental task of bringing development and the rule of law to vast expanses of the country that continue to be prey to violence — a violence that thrives on the absence or weakness of institutions, infrastructure and legal economic opportunities for the communities who live in those areas. There is probably no greater challenge for the new national authorities than to bring resources and coherence to a combination of social and economic development, infrastructure, security, counter-narcotics and the rule of law. The Peace Agreement with FARC has made this possible; the country's new leadership has the opportunity to make this a reality.

78. One of the prominent provisions of the Peace Agreement called for a National Political Pact against violence and for the peaceful exercise of politics. In the polarized context of the plebiscite and the elections, the Government doubted whether it could lead it successfully. What seemed difficult became possible and necessary two weeks ago when, setting aside political differences, Colombian society expressed its outrage and repudiation at the spike of killings of social leaders and human rights defenders. A "Pact of repudiation of violence against social leaders" was endorsed by key State institutions and by all major political expressions. The more relevant measures provided in the Peace Agreement specifically to address violence in the zones of conflict are at varying stages of implementation. Taken together, however, they still fall far short. I believe the national political will reflected in the pact of repudiation of violence can make a difference. Political polarization has been only part of the story of the past two years. The deliberations of the National Commission on Security Guarantees, where State institutions and civil society meet, the expanding presence and activities of the National Council for Peace and Reconciliation throughout the country, and the willingness of former combatants, farmers, soldiers, police, entrepreneurs, religious leaders and victims in the rural areas to come together and leave the confrontations of the past behind are all signs that the basis for a broader national consensus, the foundation of national reconciliation, exists. I invite the national authorities, institutions, political forces and civil society to remain committed to that purpose.

79. I also invite the Security Council to maintain its own unanimous commitment to Colombia, which has played a very significant role in bringing the peace process to this point. I am confident that together with the continuing assistance of the United Nations country team and the international community at large, the Mission can support effectively the fulfilment of the daunting tasks that lie ahead.

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# Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018)

**Report of the Secretary-General**

## I. Introduction

1. The present report is the fifty-third submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2191 (2014), paragraph 5 of resolution 2258 (2015), paragraph 5 of resolution 2332 (2016), paragraph 6 of resolution 2393 (2017) and paragraph 12 of resolution 2401 (2018), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The information contained herein is based on data available to agencies of the United Nations system and from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and other relevant sources. Data from agencies of the United Nations system on their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for June 2018.

## II. Major developments

Box 1
**Key points: June 2018**

1. Significant military escalation occurred from 17 June in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic, with air strikes and artillery shelling resulting in at least 65 deaths, scores of injuries and the displacement of an estimated 271,800 people. By the end of June, government forces had taken control of large swathes of territory in the eastern countryside of Dar'a Governorate and advanced towards the Syrian-Jordanian border. From 27 June, hostilities forced the United Nations to suspend its cross-border deliveries from Jordan for lack of security assurances. Pre-positioning enabled the United Nations and its partners to provide emergency assistance for some 180,000 people.

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2. Insecurity in Idlib Governorate in June resulting from fighting among non-State armed opposition groups continued to have a negative impact on the civilian population, including as a result of continued attacks on medical facilities and personnel. In the second half of June, several incidents of shelling and aerial bombardment were reported on areas near the front lines in northern rural Ladhiqiyah, western rural Idlib and northern rural Hama, resulting in deaths as well as local temporary displacement. During the reporting period, a large number of civilians, including 11 women and 11 children, were reportedly killed, with many more injured.

3. As a follow-up to the United Nations inter-agency humanitarian assessment mission to Raqqah city that took place on 1 April, the Department of Safety and Security and the Mine Action Service conducted a technical assessment to Raqqah city from 13 to 15 June. Some 138,000 civilians have returned to Raqqah city since the end of hostilities in October 2017 despite the high levels of explosive hazard contamination.

4. In northern Aleppo Governorate, attacks in Afrin and the areas formerly covered by Operation Euphrates Shield resulted in civilians being killed and injured, with multiple improvised explosive devices detonating in civilian-populated areas.

5. United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners continued to reach millions of people in need. Humanitarian assistance provided from within the country by United Nations agencies reached more than 3 million people with food assistance. Three inter-agency humanitarian convoys of life-saving relief, food and medical supplies were deployed in June to the hard-to-reach locations of Duma, in eastern Ghutah, Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham, in Rif Dimashq, and Rastan, in northern rural Homs, reaching a total of 218,500 people in need. In June, the United Nations delivered life-saving assistance to more than 800,000 people through cross-border deliveries.

3. Since the adoption by the Security Council on 24 February 2018 of resolution 2401 (2018), in which the Council demanded a cessation of hostilities, military conflict has continued in many parts of the Syrian Arab Republic. Throughout June, air strikes, artillery shelling and sniper fire were reported in the governorates of Aleppo, Idlib, Ladhiqiyah, Dayr al-Zawr, Homs, Hama, Suwayda', Dar'a and Qunaytirah, as military operations continued between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and allied pro-government forces and non-State armed opposition groups. In-fighting among non-State armed opposition groups was reported in Aleppo and Idlib Governorates. Sporadic clashes occurred between government forces and the Syrian Democratic Forces in Dayr al-Zawr Governorate.

4. Significant military escalation occurred from 17 June in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic, with air strikes and artillery shelling accompanied by a ground offensive by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, supported by allied forces, that resulted in deaths, injuries and the displacement of the civilian population, including many women and children. By the end of June, government forces had seized large swathes of territory in the eastern countryside of Dar'a Governorate and advanced towards the Syrian-Jordanian border. A large number of civilians, including 19 women and 7 children, were reportedly killed in Dar'a Governorate as a result of air and ground-based strikes. The escalation of hostilities in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic included the use of explosive weaponry, which will exacerbate the existing explosive hazard contamination in the area. The military escalation also resulted in large-scale civilian displacement, in particular towards the Jordanian border in the south and Qunaytirah Governorate in the west. By the end of

the reporting period, an estimated 271,800 people had been displaced, including 164,000 who had moved towards camps for displaced persons and villages in Qunaytirah and 60,000 who had been displaced in proximity to the Syrian-Jordanian border. Many displaced persons lacked shelter and basic items. Deaths were reported on the border due to the severe conditions, including deaths from dehydration, scorpion bites and diseases from contaminated water.

5. From 27 June, hostilities forced the United Nations to suspend its cross-border deliveries from Jordan for lack of security assurances. However, aid for some 189,000 people had been pre-positioned in advance of the surge in fighting. Within 48 hours of the first displacement, pre-positioned stocks were delivered to newly displaced people. In June, the United Nations and its partners provided emergency assistance for some 180,000 people. On 27 June, the Syrian authorities announced the establishment of corridors through which people could leave areas not under government control. Up to 15,000 people had used those corridors by the end of the reporting period. As at 30 June, negotiations between representatives of the Government and non-State armed opposition groups, facilitated by the Russian Federation, had resulted in some local agreements but no comprehensive deal. The United Nations was not a party to those agreements, nor was it involved in their implementation.

6. Insecurity in Idlib Governorate in June resulting from fighting among non-State armed opposition groups continued to have a negative impact on the civilian population. In the second half of June, several incidents of shelling and aerial bombardment were reported on areas near the front lines in northern rural Ladhiqiyah, western rural Idlib and northern rural Hama. Civilian casualties and local temporary displacement were reported. A large number of civilians, including 11 women and 11 children, were reportedly killed, with many more injured. On 7 June, two air strikes in Zardana reportedly resulted in the deaths of at least 44 civilians, including 11 women and 5 children, with scores more injured. Subsequently, attacks were reported against the nearby villages of Fu'ah and Kafraya, besieged by armed opposition groups since March 2015, resulting in the death of a child and the injury of two other people. On 21 June, two consecutive car bombs detonated near a hotel in Idlib city, reportedly causing a significant number of deaths and injuries. Meanwhile, humanitarian demining, the renovation of medical centres and schools, the development of an electricity grid and the repair of water and sewage systems are all under way.

7. Some 190,500 people are currently estimated to reside in eastern Ghutah, Rif Dimashq Governorate, with the highest population centres being Duma, Saqba and Hammuriyah. This number includes some 20,970 people who have returned since 15 May, when the authorities began allowing those with the necessary clearances to exit the sites for displaced persons. At the same time, 14,435 people remain at the sites, many of them men and boys between the ages of 15 and 55 years. Access for the United Nations remains challenging; the sites for displaced persons were last reached on 15 June. In addition, for the first time since March, United Nations convoys reached Duma, eastern Ghutah, where assistance was provided for some 70,000 people in need. The provision of public health services is still at a minimum, with a lack of medicines reported from Duma, and medical emergencies are referred by the Department of Health to hospitals in Damascus and transported by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Commercial movement, however, is reported to reach the area without restriction. Markets are fully operational, and all key commodities are available, at prices similar to those in Damascus.

8. Some 138,000 civilians have returned to Raqqah city since the end of hostilities in October 2017 despite the high levels of explosive hazard contamination. As a follow-up to the United Nations inter-agency humanitarian assessment mission to

Raqqah city that took place on 1 April, the Department of Safety and Security and the Mine Action Service conducted a technical assessment in Raqqah city from 13 to 15 June. The number of reported blast-related incidents at health facilities per month has decreased, from a high of more than 170 in November 2017 to 23 in May (the last month for which data are available). Only one blast-related casualty was reported in the first half of June. Access to basic services has gradually improved, with hospitals opening and electricity to infrastructure sites such as pumping stations having been restored. Only half the city receives water through the supply network, however, often in insufficient quantities. The United Nations and its partners continue to provide assistance to the city and to the broader Raqqah Governorate, reaching more than 650,000 people per month with assistance.

9. Military offensives continued against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the eastern part of the Syrian Arab Republic. On 3 June, the Syrian Democratic Forces announced the resumption of fighting against ISIL, seizing additional land in Hasakah Governorate during the reporting period. Fighting was also reported between government forces and ISIL in a rural pocket straddling Dayr al-Zawr and Homs Governorates. The General Command of the Syrian Arab Armed Forces announced full government control over the area on 27 June. A number of civilians were reportedly killed as a result of these attacks. In a single incident, on 12 June, at least 10 civilians were killed and 15 others injured when air strikes were reported to have hit the ISIL-held village of Hassun al-Basha, located near the Tall al-Shayir area of southern Hasakah. Reports were also received of the detonation of pieces of unexploded ordnance in areas recently taken over from ISIL in Dayr al-Zawr Governorate, resulting in the killing and injury of civilians.

10. In northern Aleppo Governorate, attacks in Afrin and the areas formerly covered by Operation Euphrates Shield resulted in civilians being killed and injured, with multiple improvised explosive devices detonating in civilian-populated areas. In a single incident, at least 11 civilians, including 2 children, were reportedly killed by a bomb attached to a motorbike that detonated in a marketplace in Bab city. On 27 June, two car bombs reportedly detonated in Afrin town, resulting in the deaths of 15 people and the injury of 23. This was the first such incident in Afrin district since March 2018.

11. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria intensified efforts to establish a constitutional committee, as agreed in the final statement of the Congress of the Syrian National Dialogue, to be facilitated by the United Nations within the framework of the Geneva process and in accordance with Security Council resolution 2254 (2015). Consultations in Brussels, Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Egypt and discussions with several other Member States preceded formal joint consultations with key stakeholders in Geneva to discuss the way ahead. The Special Envoy hosted representatives of the Astana guarantors, namely, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and Turkey, in Geneva, which allowed for the emergence of some common ground on the issue of a constitutional committee, as well as representatives from the Small Group of the Global Coalition, composed of France, Germany, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States, to discuss de-escalation arrangements, diplomatic bridging proposals and prospects for progress on the constitutional track.

**Protection**

12. Air and ground-based strikes continued to kill and injure civilians and damage and destroy civilian infrastructure. Explosive weapons continued to be fired into populated areas, killing and injuring civilians and destroying and damaging vital infrastructure. Communities were littered with explosive hazards that killed and injured civilians and impeded humanitarian access. The use of improvised explosive

devices in some areas added to the complexity of the explosive hazard threat. The many civilian casualties and the scale of the destruction of civilian infrastructure remained a strong indication that violations of the fundamental rules of distinction, proportionality and precaution, and in particular of the prohibition on the launching of indiscriminate attacks, continued.

13. Fighting continued to have an impact on civilian infrastructure, including medical facilities, schools, markets and places of worship. According to information received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), civilian casualties occurred in various governorates, possibly in violation of international humanitarian law (see annex). OHCHR has documented alleged violations committed by parties to the conflict, including government forces and their allies, non-State armed opposition groups and their allies, and Security Council-designated terrorist groups.

14. Notwithstanding the call upon the Syrian authorities by the Human Rights Council, in its resolutions S-18/1 and 19/22, to cooperate with OHCHR, including through the establishment of a field presence with the mandate to protect and promote human rights, OHCHR reporting remained limited, given that the Government had not granted it access to the country.

15. Civilians across the Syrian Arab Republic continued to be subjected to deprivation of liberty, ill-treatment, torture and murder by parties to the conflict. On 5 June, members of the Syrian Democratic Forces reportedly detained at least 31 male civilians as they attempted to pass through a market in Tabaqah, western Raqqah Governorate. Their whereabouts remain unknown. The deputy head of the de facto local council of Afrin district, western rural Aleppo Governorate, was reportedly held together with his family on 8 June in the Shaykh al-Hadid area of Afrin city. His family members were released a few hours later, but the councilman was not released until two days later, after his health began to deteriorate as a result of ill-treatment. He died on 11 June. On 24 June, a non-State armed opposition group in the Jindayris area of Afrin district reportedly held a number of Iraqi refugees for a few hours and confiscated their money and personal belongings before releasing them.

16. The United Nations and its health partners verified eight attacks that affected health-care facilities and personnel during the reporting period, all in the southern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, resulting in the deaths of four health workers and the injury of five others. Seven of the attacked health facilities were in areas controlled by non-State armed opposition groups and one was in a government-controlled area. On 21 June, a primary health centre in eastern Mulayhah, Dar'a Governorate, was hit, resulting in severe structural damage and damage to equipment. The attack also resulted in damage to the ambulance attached to the facility. The centre is reportedly out of service. On 24 June, the primary health centre in Busra al-Hariri, Dar'a Governorate, was hit, resulting in structural damage and damage to equipment. Initial reports indicated that one health worker had been killed, and the facility is reported to be out of service. On 26 June, the Dar'a National Hospital was reportedly hit by two mortars landing in the ambulance square. The attack led to material damage only. On 26 June, the primary health centre in Musayfirah, Dar'a Governorate, was hit, resulting in major structural damage. On 27 June, a field hospital in Sayda, Dar'a Governorate, was hit, resulting in major structural damage. On 27 June, the outpatient department and dialysis centre of the hospital in Harak, Dar'a Governorate, was hit, resulting in major structural damage. On 27 June, the hospital in Jizah, Dar'a Governorate, was hit, resulting in major structural damage, as well as the deaths of two health workers and the injury of three others. On 27 June, the hospital complex housing Al-Ihsan Hospital and E. Ghariyah Blood Bank, Dar'a, was hit, resulting in major structural damage. As staff worked to evacuate the

premises, continued conflict resulted in the death of one health worker and the injury of two others.

17. Educational facilities also continued to be affected by the fighting, with four credible reports of attacks. On 10 June, in Binnish town, Idlib Governorate, four schools, namely, Girls' High School, Mamdouh Shu'aib High School, Mustafa Farhat School (Resala School) and Asaad Anadani School, were impacted by a series of air strikes that rendered all facilities out of service, with no casualties. On 25 June, in Busra al-Hariri town, Dar'a Governorate, the guard of a school was killed when air strikes hit while he was on duty at the facility. On 21 June, in Musayfirah, Dar'a Governorate, an alternative learning centre was impacted by shelling that partially damaged the facility and rendered it out of service.

**Humanitarian access**

Box 2
**Key points**

1. United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners continued to reach millions of people in need, including from within the Syrian Arab Republic. Humanitarian assistance provided from within the Syrian Arab Republic by United Nations agencies based in the country to regularly accessible locations in government-controlled areas reached more than 3 million people with food assistance through 2,244 deliveries.

2. Three inter-agency humanitarian convoys of life-saving relief, food and medical supplies were deployed in June, namely, to the hard-to-reach locations of Duma, in eastern Ghutah, Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham, in Rif Dimashq, and Rastan, in northern rural Homs. Convoys to the latter two locations were accompanied by the United Nations. United Nations personnel were, however, not permitted to participate in the convoy to Duma because security approvals had not been received from the Syrian authorities.

3. Cross-border assistance, authorized under Security Council resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2393 (2017), remained a vital part of the humanitarian response. In June, 314 trucks (13 consignments) delivered life-saving assistance to more than 800,000 people through cross-border deliveries. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey. However, United Nations humanitarian cross-border operations through Jordan had to be suspended in late June owing to the escalating violence in Dar'a, Qunaytirah and Suwayda' Governorates.

4. Supplies pre-positioned in anticipation of an offensive in the south had been dispatched over the past few months for an initial front-line response, and preparedness plans were actively translated into operational plans in late June when violence escalated in Dar'a, Qunaytirah and Suwayda' Governorates.

18. Under the United Nations inter-agency convoy plan for May and June, access was requested to 20 locations in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, with the objective of reaching 860,200 people. In June, three inter-agency convoys were authorized to deploy to the hard-to-reach locations of Duma, in eastern Ghutah, Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham, in Rif Dimashq, and Rastan, in northern rural Homs, providing multisectoral assistance to 218,500 people (see tables 1 and 2).

Table 1
**Inter-agency cross-line humanitarian convoys, June 2018**

| *Date* | *Location* | *Requested target (number of beneficiaries)* | *Number of beneficiaries reached* | *Type of assistance* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 June | Duma | 85 000 | 60 000 | Multisectoral |
| 14 June | Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham | 61 000 | 51 000 | Multisectoral |
| 26 June | Rastan | 107 500 | 107 500 | Multisectoral |

Figure I
**Percentage of people reached each month in besieged areas through United Nations inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations, October 2017–June 2018**

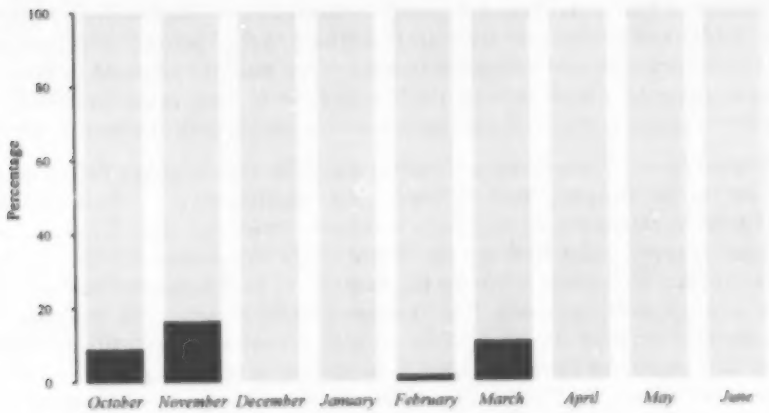


Figure II
**Inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations, June 2018**

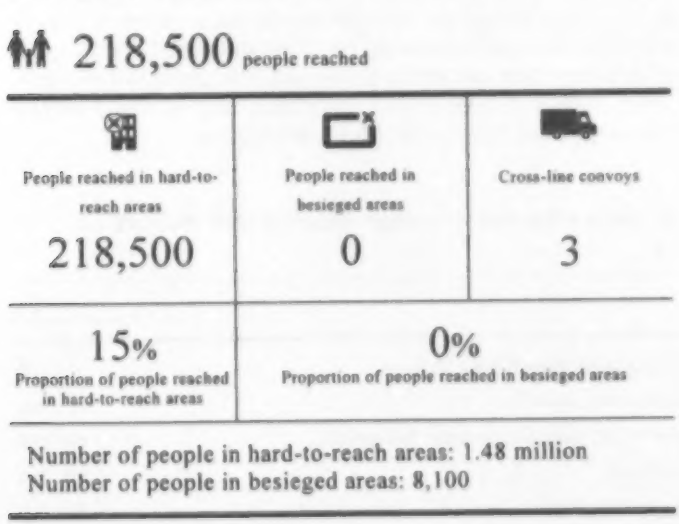

Table 2
**Besieged locations, June 2018**

| *Governorate* | *Location* | *Population* | *Besieged by* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Idlib | Fu'ah | 5 900 | Non-State armed opposition groups |
| Idlib | Kafraya | 2 200 | Non-State armed opposition groups |
| **Total** | | **8 100** | |

**Humanitarian response**

19. United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners reached millions of people in need, including women and children, through all available access routes, including: (a) humanitarian operations from within the Syrian Arab Republic, whereby humanitarian deliveries reach those in need without crossing conflict lines; (b) cross-line convoys, whereby assistance from within the country is delivered across conflict lines; and (c) cross-border deliveries, whereby assistance is provided to those in need from Iraq, Jordan and Turkey (see table 3). In addition to the United Nations and its partners, the Government and non-governmental organizations continued to deliver life-saving assistance to people in need. Local authorities in many areas controlled by non-State armed opposition groups also continued to provide services where possible.

20. Individual agencies continued to submit requests for single-agency deliveries to locations across the country. Such deliveries are undertaken by United Nations agencies based in Damascus to regularly accessible areas. In June, 2,244 of the 2,252 official requests submitted by the World Food Programme to the Syrian authorities to obtain facilitation letters for the transport of food assistance to locations across the country were approved. The remaining eight requests did not receive official approvals because of the closure of supply routes for security reasons, preventing the Programme from delivering food assistance to 5,625 people in Dar'a city, Dar'a Governorate. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) submitted 33 requests for facilitation letters for the movement of core relief items and livelihood kits, all of which were approved. More than 1,970,000 children and mothers were reached with primary health-care and immunization services during June. In addition, an estimated 293,000 children and pregnant and lactating women were provided with nutritional supplements and services. A total of 104,000 children benefited from essential learning materials and remedial education, and 172,000 children benefited from protection and psychosocial support services. Approximately 3 million people received food assistance and nearly 1 million benefited from water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies.

Table 3
**People reached by the United Nations and other organizations through all modalities, June 2018**

| *Organization* | *Number of people reached* |
|---|---|
| Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | 124 000 |
| International Organization for Migration | 31 000 |
| Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | 2 897 000 |
| United Nations Children's Fund | 3 000 000 |
| United Nations Development Programme | 1 299 000 |
| United Nations Population Fund | 360 000 |

| *Organization* | *Number of people reached* |
|---|---|
| United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East | 160 000 |
| World Food Programme | 3 010 000 |
| World Health Organization | 335 000 |

21. Military escalation in eastern Ghutah ceased during the reporting period. An estimated 14,435 people remained at nearby sites for internally displaced persons during the reporting period, while an estimated 190,500 people stayed inside eastern Ghutah. Humanitarian access to assist civilians in need in eastern Ghutah remained challenging. The United Nations did not receive permission to conduct needs assessments or deliver humanitarian assistance inside the enclave during the reporting period. Humanitarian assistance, including the delivery of United Nations food assistance for 45,400 people on 10 June, has been provided by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. United Nations personnel were not permitted to accompany the convoy to Duma on 10 June because security approvals had not been received from the Syrian authorities. However, the United Nations continued to provide assistance to displaced people at displacement sites in Rif Dimashq and to evacuees in Idlib and northern Aleppo Governorates through implementing partners.

22. An estimated 138,800 people remained displaced from Afrin district in the Tall Rif'at, Nubl, Zahra' and Fafin areas of Aleppo Governorate. People displaced from Afrin to Tall Rif'at and other areas have largely been accessible to humanitarian organizations operating from Aleppo. Humanitarian access to Afrin city from within the Syrian Arab Republic has not yet received the necessary approvals from the Syrian authorities. While Turkey and Turkish authorities provide the majority of the response in those areas, the United Nations, through its cross-border humanitarian partners, is also contributing to life-saving services and activities in the district. However, needs are considered to remain high, with most health facilities in rural areas closed, many service providers having fled the area and a large proportion of schools, markets and bakeries not yet functional, owing to explosive remnants of war and the continued absence of staff, workers and tradespeople.

23. In Raqqah Governorate, an estimated 138,000 people have returned to Raqqah city since the withdrawal of ISIL. Most returnees have settled in areas with comparatively less infrastructure damage and explosive hazard contamination. Scaling up the humanitarian response and capacity has been challenging because of the high levels of contamination from mines and unexploded ordnance, which pose significant threats to the returnees and humanitarian workers. A United Nations technical mission conducted in mid-June found that the city still suffered from extensive destruction. Clear improvements had been noticed within the past few months, however, as more streets were being opened for traffic. Access to basic services within Raqqah city continued to gradually improve, with hospitals reopening and electricity re-established in rural areas to the north of the city, as well as at other infrastructure sites. Seven health facilities, as well as the main marketplace, bakeries, pharmacies, groceries and restaurants, were operational again.

24. Cross-border deliveries continued from Iraq, Jordan and Turkey under the terms of resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017) (see figure III and table 4). In line with those resolutions, the United Nations notified the Syrian authorities in advance of each shipment, including its contents, its destination and the number of beneficiaries expected to be reached.

25. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations authorized under resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258

(2015) and 2393 (2017) in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey. During the reporting period, the Mechanism monitored the delivery of 13 consignments by 7 United Nations agencies, consisting of 314 trucks, from the 4 border crossings: 4 from Bab al-Hawa (216 trucks), 3 from Bab al-Salam (22 trucks), 5 from Ramtha (66 trucks) and 1 from Ya'rubiyah (10 trucks). There were no concerns or questions about the humanitarian nature of the consignments sent. The United Nations provided 48-hour notice to the Government regarding all shipments. Once in the country, United Nations partners ensured that shipments arrived at the designated warehouses. Independent third-party companies contracted by the United Nations ensured independent verification of the assistance arriving at the warehouses and monitored the distribution and/or service provision. The Mechanism continued to benefit from the excellent cooperation of the Governments of Iraq, Jordan and Turkey.

26. Since cross-border operations began in July 2014, following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014), the United Nations has conducted more than 831 cross-border consignments, with more than 20,993 trucks (14,203 through Bab al-Hawa and 2,153 through Bab al-Salam from Turkey; 4,605 through Ramtha from Jordan; and 32 through Ya'rubiyah from Iraq). Those operations complement and support the aid provided by international and Syrian non-governmental organizations that provide services to millions more from neighbouring countries.

27. During the reporting period, the United Nations and its implementing partners delivered food assistance to more than 500,000 people from three cross-border entry points through Turkey and Jordan. The United Nations also conducted health and medical deliveries, providing nearly 370,000 treatments through the cross-border mechanism. In the northern part of the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Nations Children's Fund delivered winter kits, child protection assistance, nutrition, education, health and water, sanitation and hygiene supplies through a number of cross-border shipments. More than 52,440 people had improved access to clean water through the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation systems, while 15,780 people had sustained access to safe drinking water. A total of 34,321 people had improved access to sanitation services as a result of solid waste collection and disposal. A total of 94,154 people benefited from access to improved life-saving and emergency water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services. A total of 103,267 children and women of child-bearing age had access to primary health-care outpatient consultations. A total of 3,817 people were reached with health supplies and 726 caregivers were reached with health promotion, including immunization messages. A total of 718,977 children under the age of 5 were vaccinated through polio campaigns and 5,429 were reached with routine vaccination (DTP3-containing vaccine). Curative and preventive nutritional interventions were delivered to 38,692 children under the age of 5 and to 35,131 pregnant and lactating women in the north-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic (Aleppo, Idlib and Hama). A total of 59,692 children between the ages of 6 and 59 months and pregnant and lactating women were screened for acute malnutrition using mid-upper-arm circumference. Of the screened children and women, 400 children were found to be severely acutely malnourished and referred to appropriate treatment. A total of 36,333 pregnant and lactating women received education and/or counselling on optimal childcare and feeding practices.

28. In the southern parts of the Syrian Arab Republic, a total of 1,342 children under the age of 5 (683 boys and 659 girls) were screened for acute malnutrition. Among them, 30 were diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition (14 boys and 16 girls). Those 30 children were enrolled in therapeutic and supplementary nutritional programmes and received the required nutritional interventions from six health centres and one mobile clinic. Moreover, 3,680 pregnant and lactating women were screened for acute malnutrition. A total of 7,395 children under the age of 5 and 1,860 pregnant and lactating women received micronutrient supplementation to prevent and treat

micronutrient deficiencies. In addition, 1,345 pregnant and lactating women received counselling services with respect to infant and young child feeding practices. More than 440,000 people benefited from improved access to clean water through the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation systems until the third week of June, when humanitarian operations were disrupted owing to escalating violence.

29. Supplies pre-positioned in anticipation of an offensive in the southern part of the Syrian Arab Republic had been dispatched over the past few months for an initial front-line response, and preparedness plans were actively translated into operational plans in late June. By the end of June, the United Nations had distributed emergency food assistance for some 180,000 people, with some receiving a second round of assistance, including ready-to-eat rations, regular food rations and nutrition supplies for the prevention of malnutrition in children under the age of 2. In addition to the food distributions, pre-positioned food stocks were sufficient for an additional 200,000 people, lasting for one month. By late June, more than 28,000 people had been reached with various shelter and non-food items, including shelter kits, non-food item kits and hygiene kits. In addition, since 19 June, protection partners had been dispatching mobile teams to provide psychosocial support, including psychological first aid, to people fleeing from the recent violence. Mobile teams were also involved in the identification of gender-based violence and child protection concerns, conducting referrals where possible. Mine-action-related medical services continued to operate, providing medical assistance, physical rehabilitation and psychosocial support.

30. UNHCR and its partners continued to enhance the response to the protection needs of internally displaced persons, returnees and other crisis-affected populations. By the end of June, 18,951 protection interventions had been conducted, reaching 487,725 individuals, including 398,909 individuals benefiting from general protection activities, 5,718 benefiting from child protection activities and 76,244 reached through more than 2,388 awareness-raising campaigns across 12 governorates on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence. As at June 2018, the total number of functioning UNHCR-funded community centres and mobile units stood at 95 community centres, 17 satellite centres and 78 mobile units, supported by 2,183 outreach volunteers. This network provided protection-related services, including community mobilization, child protection, legal aid, the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence, livelihood services and services for persons with specific needs, to benefit some 2.6 million internally displaced persons, returnees, host communities and other crisis-affected people across 12 Syrian governorates. In June, 72,478 internally displaced persons in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Suwayda', Dar'a, Qunaytirah, Tartus, Ladhiqiyah, Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Hasakah were direct beneficiaries of the UNHCR legal assistance programme, including counselling; awareness sessions on various legal topics, including civil documentation and women's rights; and lawyers' direct interventions before courts and administrative bodies. Moreover, the United Nations Population Fund reached more than 360,000 people, carrying out activities relating to reproductive health and the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence and youth-related violence. Also during the reporting period, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) distributed food parcels to some 25,000 Palestine refugees. In addition, 7,425 Palestine refugees displaced from Yarmouk received ready-to-eat food baskets in June. A total of 144,361 individuals received cash assistance through the regular cash distribution round, and 4,140 Palestine refugees displaced from Yarmouk and eastern Ghutah benefited from a one-time payment of $70 per family.

Figure III
**Number of beneficiaries assisted by the United Nations and its partners by cluster through cross-border humanitarian deliveries, June 2018**

(Thousands)

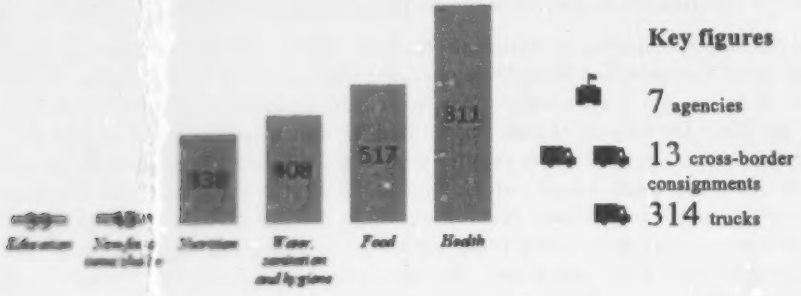


Table 4
**Number of beneficiaries targeted through cross-border deliveries by sector and by district, June 2018**

| Governorate | District | Education | Food | Health | Non-food items/shelter | Nutrition | Water, sanitation and hygiene |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aleppo | Afrin | – | – | 100 | – | – | – |
| Aleppo | Azaz | – | – | 2 260 | – | – | – |
| Aleppo | Jarabulus | – | 62 970 | 18 640 | – | – | – |
| Aleppo | Jarabulus | – | – | 660 | – | – | – |
| Aleppo | Jabal Sim'an | – | 19 400 | 13 480 | 9 000 | – | – |
| Hasakah | Qamishli | – | – | 82 050 | 5 544 | – | – |
| Dar'a | Sanamayn | 1 050 | 685 | – | – | – | – |
| Dar'a | Dar'a | 2 440 | 42 945 | 313 000 | 17 400 | – | 310 409 |
| Dar'a | Izra' | 12 300 | 43 017 | 158 000 | – | – | 87 838 |
| Hama | Suqaylibiyah | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Idlib | Ma'arrah | – | 61 900 | 4 870 | 5 000 | – | 5 000 |
| Idlib | Ariha | – | 13 500 | 1 600 | – | – | – |
| Idlib | Harim | 21 600 | 216 000 | 99 270 | 5 000 | 337 877 | 5 000 |
| Idlib | Idlib | – | 53 125 | 16 640 | 1 445 | – | – |
| Idlib | Jisr al-Shughur | – | – | 3 580 | – | – | – |
| Qunaytirah | Fiq | 300 | 12 | 10 200 | – | – | – |
| Qunaytirah | Qunaytirah | 1 700 | 3 141 | 86 465 | – | – | – |

31. The Russian Federation sent informational bulletins to the United Nations from the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic, which outlined the provision of bilateral relief assistance. Other Member States also continued to provide bilateral and other forms of humanitarian assistance.

## Visas and registrations

32. A total of 56 new United Nations visa requests were submitted to the Government [illegible] of those, 34 were approved, 11 remained pending, 35 were approved in June, while 4 remained pending. One new visa application was rejected and one was cancelled by the United Nations. A total of 92 United Nations

visa renewal requests were submitted in June, of which 53 were approved and 39 remained pending. An additional 26 requests for visa renewals submitted in May were approved in June. For some United Nations entities in the Syrian Arab Republic, a significant number of staff are not yet in place or cannot be replaced owing to the non-issuance of visas for months, formal requests notwithstanding.

33. A total of 23 international non-governmental organizations are registered with the Government to operate in the country.

**Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and premises**

34. Agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system continued to implement programmes in areas affected by frequent clashes among parties to the conflict, air strikes, the regular exchange of indirect artillery fire and asymmetrical attacks. As a result of activities relating to the armed conflict, significant areas of operation became highly contaminated with unexploded ordnance, explosive remnants of war and landmines, which pose an elevated risk to the implementation of United Nations activities in those areas.

35. Since the beginning of the conflict, dozens of humanitarian workers have been killed, including: 22 staff members of the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system, 18 of whom were staff members of UNRWA; 66 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent; and 8 staff members and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. Many staff members of international and national non-governmental organizations are also reported to have been killed.

36. A total of 27 staff members of agencies and programmes of the United Nations system (1 staff member of the United Nations Development Programme, 1 staff member of the Department of Safety and Security and 25 UNRWA staff members) are being detained or are missing.

## III. Observations

37. I am deeply alarmed by the military offensive in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab Republic and its devastating toll on civilians. I urge the international community to unite to put an end to the continued hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic, which risk further destabilizing the region and worsening the deep humanitarian crisis for the Syrian people. The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic will end not through military gains, but only through a political solution under the auspices of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) and the Action Group for Syria Final Communiqué.

38. Ensuring safe, sustained and unimpeded access for people in need throughout the country remains essential to avoiding the further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis. However, United Nations access to areas across conflict lines and areas that have recently changed control remains severely limited. Humanitarian aid must be able to reach those areas without delay. In areas that recently changed control, access restrictions have been further challenged by the lack of basic services, as service providers have been displaced as part of local agreements reached between Syrian authorities and non-State armed opposition groups. The teachers, doctors and other service providers providing essential basic services before changes in control should be protected, so that those they support continue to receive the assistance that they need.

39. I am particularly concerned about the curtailment of cross-border operations due to the lack of security assurances in the south-western part of the Syrian Arab

resolutions, allows for cross-border assistance to be provided to reach those in need

through the most direct routes. As I have stated previously, all methods of delivery are essential to the efficient and effective provision of humanitarian assistance and to ensuring a needs-based response. Parties must ensure that the necessary security guarantees are in place for the continued delivery to those in need in the south, recognizing that needs have increased since the escalation of hostilities, owing to attacks on civilians and mass displacement.

40. I remind all parties to the conflict of their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure; not to make civilian infrastructure the object of attack and to take special care to avoid damage to schools (unless, in each case, they have become lawful military objectives); and to respect and protect health workers and not to direct attacks against health facilities. Humanitarian relief personnel must be respected and protected, given that they play an essential role in the delivery of basic services and will be essential to the continuation of service delivery, even in areas that change control. The rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need that is impartial in character and conducted without any adverse distinction must be allowed and facilitated. Civilians wishing to flee the fighting should be allowed to do so without hindrance and in full dignity and safety, while those wishing to stay must be protected. Parties to the conflict may not order the displacement of the civilian population for reasons related to the conflict unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons demand it.

41. Continuing violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights law committed by all parties to the conflict, and impunity for them, remain of grave concern. I reiterate that those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law must be held accountable. Such a step is central to achieving sustainable peace in the Syrian Arab Republic. I also reiterate my call for the situation in the country to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

42. I also call upon all parties to the conflict, all States, civil society and the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, in particular by providing information and documentation.

43. My Special Envoy will continue his efforts to meaningfully relaunch the United Nations-facilitated political process and to establish a constitutional committee, as agreed in the final statement of the Congress of the Syrian National Dialogue. The joint consultations held in Geneva with the Astana guarantors and the Small Group of the Global Coalition revealed some common ground and an expectation that any constitutional committee must be credible and internationally legitimate and must bring together representatives of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Syrian opposition, as well as independents, civil society, experts and women. I fully support my Special Envoy's efforts to ensure that the constitutional committee has a minimum of 30 per cent of seats reserved for women. The formation of a constitutional committee would be a contribution to the United Nations-facilitated political process, one affording Syrians the opportunity to have a voice in the future of their country, move beyond conflict and end their unimaginable suffering.

# Annex

## Reported incidents affecting civilians, recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, June 2018*

### Dar'a Governorate

- On 19 June, civilians were killed as a result of different strikes that hit several areas in Dar'a city and other areas in rural Dar'a. As a result of those strikes, one girl was killed in the Dar'a Mahattah area of Dar'a city, one boy was killed in opposition-held Khirbat al-Ghazalah, one civilian woman was killed in opposition-held Mahajjah and two other civilians were killed in opposition-held Nahtah.
- On 20 June, ground-based strikes reportedly hit Harak city and killed five civilians, including three women. Another two civilian women were reportedly killed in the Lajah area on the same day also as a result of ground-based strikes.
- On 20 June, three civilians were reportedly killed in Dar'a city as a result of ground-based strikes. On the same day, three civilian women were reportedly killed in the Malihah al-Gharbiyah area as a result of ground-based strikes.
- On 21 June, four civilians, including one woman and two children, were reportedly killed as a result of ground-based strikes that hit the Harak area.
- On 22 June, eight civilians, including two women and one child, were killed as a result of ground-based strikes and air strikes that hit different areas in Dar'a city and Mahajjah.
- On 24 June, nine civilians, including two women, were reportedly killed as a result of air strikes that hit the areas of Surah and Harak.
- On 25 June, at around 1600, a local market in Nawa city, in western rural Dar'a, was reportedly hit with ground-based strikes that killed six civilians, including two children and three women.
- On 27 June, seven civilians, including one woman and three children from the same family, were reportedly killed as a result of air strikes that hit the town of Da'il.
- On 30 June, at least 12 civilians, including 5 women, were reportedly killed as a result of ground-based strikes that hit the Ma'raba area of eastern Dar'a.

### Aleppo Governorate

- On 3 June, four civilians were killed and at least two others were injured when a ground-based strike reportedly hit Nile Street, in Aleppo city.
- On 13 June, three civilians were killed when ground-based strikes hit the Tishrin neighbourhood of Aleppo city.
- On 16 June, one civilian was killed in a village in rural Afrin as a result of the detonation of a piece of unexploded ordnance in the street.

* In line with Security Council resolution 2258 (2015), the present description of incidents that are reported to have occurred during the month relates to compliance with Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic. The information is provided without prejudice to the work of the Task Force on the Cessation of Hostilities of the International Syria Support Group. The reporting is not a comprehensive listing of all violations of

- On 13 June, an improvised explosive device attached to a motorbike detonated in a marketplace in Bab city, in northern rural Aleppo, killing 11 civilians, including 2 children.
- On 27 June, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device reportedly detonated in Afrin city, killing 7 civilians and injuring 18 others.

**Idlib Governorate**

- On 10 June, 10 civilians, including 3 children and their parents, were reportedly killed as a result of an air strike that hit a residential area in Taftanaz town, in north-western Idlib.
- On 7 June, in the evening, Zardana village, in northern Idlib Governorate, was reportedly hit with air strikes, killing at least 44 civilians, including 11 women and 5 children, and injuring scores of other civilians, including 9 women and 7 children.
- The strikes on Zardana provoked retaliatory attacks on the two besieged villages of Fu'ah and Kafraya, in Idlib. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights documented the killing of a 12-year-old boy and the injury of two other civilians reportedly as a result of sniper fire on 8 June in Fu'ah and Kafraya.
- On 6 June, an unidentified explosion destroyed a three-story building in the Maydan neighbourhood of Ariha, killing three children from the same family and injuring two other children and two civilian women.

**Hasakah Governorate**

- On 13 June, four civilians were killed and seven others were injured as a result of air strikes that reportedly hit a residential area in the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)-held village of Hardanah, close to the Shaddadah area of southern rural Hasakah.
- On 12 June, air strikes hit the ISIL-held village of Hassun al-Basha, close to the Tall al-Shayir area of southern rural Hasakah, killing 10 civilians and injuring 15 others.

**Dayr al-Zawr Governorate**

- On 21 June, air strikes reportedly hit the town of Sha'fah, in eastern rural Dayr al-Zawr, killing 8 civilians and injuring 11 others.